



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Passover Seders Draw Large Crowds

Noe Valley Well Represented At Local Jewish Gatherings

By Corrie M. Anders

On Friday nights, several dozen Jewish worshippers generally show up for the Shabbat services that Beyt Tikkun hosts at the Noe Valley Ministry. There is a similar gathering at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, which holds its Shabbat services a few blocks away on Dolores Street. But those congregants won't be in their familiar spiritual homes for the April 17 celebration of Passover and the festive seder meal that accompanies it.

"It's too big" to hold at the Noe Valley Ministry, says Beyt Tikkun board member Peter Gabel. Instead, the Beyt Tikkun seder will take place at the First Unitarian Church on Franklin Street, and is expected to draw a few hundred people.

Another several hundred celebrants will convene at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness Avenue to share Sha'ar Zahav's Passover seder. "It's becoming incredibly popular," says congregation spokesman Marc Wernick.

Indeed, it is not at all unusual for attendance to swell dramatically during



**Flickering Lights:** Nuns from St. Paul's on Church Street joined several dozen Noe Valley residents in prayers and songs for peace at a March 16 candlelight vigil on the steps of the church. Despite many such demonstrations throughout the city and the world, the U.S. began its invasion of Iraq on March 19. The war was still raging at month's end. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

major celebrations. But the size of the events also acknowledges a Jewish presence in Noe Valley that is growing and becoming more visible.

In the last decade, four Jewish religious centers have settled in or on the edge of the neighborhood. The latest is Chabad of Noe Valley, which moved in 2½ years ago and immediately inaugurated the very public lighting of a large menorah on 24th Street during Hanukkah. That now-annual affair comes complete with latkes

(potato pancakes), music, and arts and crafts. Congregations also have established several small religious schools for Jewish children.

The Chabad House has a program that introduces kids to Passover and "the fun that goes with it," says Rabbi Gedalia Potash. The children dress up in special baker's hats and "roll out their own dough, make their little holes, and make

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## Battaglia Fills In For Corrales at Mission Station

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Lieutenant Roger Battaglia, a 32-year veteran of the San Francisco Police Department, has been serving as acting commander of Mission Station since March 5, filling in for Captain Greg Corrales, who has headed up the station since January 2002.

Corrales has been on suspension without pay from the San Francisco Police Department since a grand jury indicted him Feb. 28 on charges of spreading misinformation. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges, which are related to the now-notorious "fajita-gate" incident involving three off-duty police officers outside a Union Street bar in November 2002.

Battaglia, 58, has worked at Mission Station since May 2001. Before taking over as acting commander, he assisted in overseeing the patrol staff. He also has worked in the patrol divisions at Park, Central, and Richmond stations, and in the Juvenile Division. He anticipates being in command at Mission Station for at least two months. (An April 18 trial date has been tentatively set for Corrales and four other officers who also have pleaded innocent to obstruction of justice charges in the case.)

"I hope I'm only going to be in charge for a short period," says Battaglia. "It wasn't my first choice in life to take this job, but I did it to support Greg Corrales. I think he's a great captain, and the officers at Mission Station are standing behind him 100 percent. This is a difficult time for Mission Station, but we're professionals who are going to continue to do our best to serve the community."

A native of San Francisco, Battaglia grew up in the Marina District but spent much of his time in North Beach, where

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## It's a Tea Party At Lovejoy's

By Olivia Boler

Throughout San Francisco, many restaurants suffering the effects of the economic downturn have closed their doors, changed management, or lowered prices. Yet Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room, a Noe Valley mainstay at the corner of Church and Clipper streets, has continued to attract a steady stream of customers from all over the Bay Area.

So, what keeps the tearoom full?

For one thing, more people are drinking tea. Muna Nash, who with Gillian Briley took over the business in early 2000, says Lovejoy's is benefiting from a "tea craze" that has spread across the country in the past couple of years. Americans are discovering they like the way tea tastes, as well as the calming rituals that surround this centuries-old pastime.

Another reason is that Lovejoy's style of tea service is unique. It's true that you can go to Chinatown and partake in an Asian tea ceremony. Or you can sit down to formal (and expensive) high tea in the grand hotels on Nob Hill. But nothing is quite like Lovejoy's, with its lemon curd and crumpets, doily-covered settees, and warm, sympathetic hostesses.

As a patron from the Marina puts it, "It's feminine and cute and reasonably priced. And the people here are nice, too."

### Mismatched Cups and Saucers

Briley and Nash, friends since they were sorority sisters at San Diego State



Harriet Cuttler (second from right) celebrated her ninth birthday with her sister Ida and friends at Lovejoy's Tea Room on Church Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

University, have made Lovejoy's accessible to all kinds of people by creating a charming, comfortable space.

"Everything is mismatched," says Nash, pointing to the teacups and saucers, "and it's just kind of easy and fun to be in here." The large dining room is filled with antique tables and chairs of all shapes and sizes and lined with cupboards displaying flowered mugs, teapots, linen napkins, tea cozies—just like the ones in your imaginary great-aunt's house.

The partners have also imported a touch of the British Isles to Noe Valley. "Ours is a very different tea from the ones in downtown [San Francisco]," says Nash. "It's like the teas in Ireland or the British countryside. Tea is a huge part of

the culture there. Everything is done around tea: If you're sad, you sit down and have a cup of tea. If you're happy, you sit down and have a cup of tea." And sometimes you have a scone, too.

Nash and Briley, both 40, are hands-on owners who work in the tearoom six days a week (it's closed on Mondays). Each has brought her own strengths to the enterprise. Nash focuses on enhancing the existing menu and fine-tuning some of the recipes. She buys organic produce when she can, and orders the light raisin scones from a local Irish baker. The tearoom's selection of nine black teas comes from Taylor's of Harrogate, a well-known

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### Exclusive War Coverage

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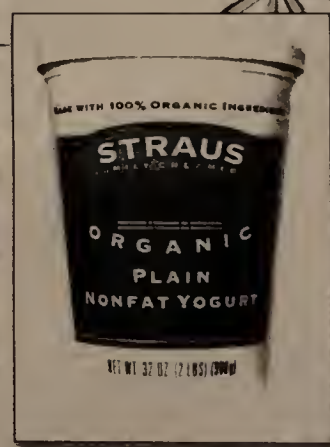
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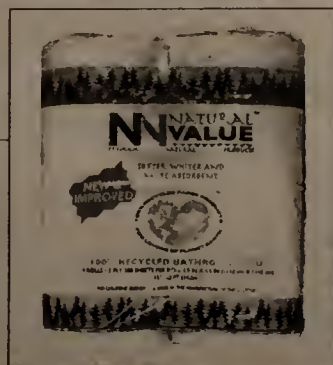
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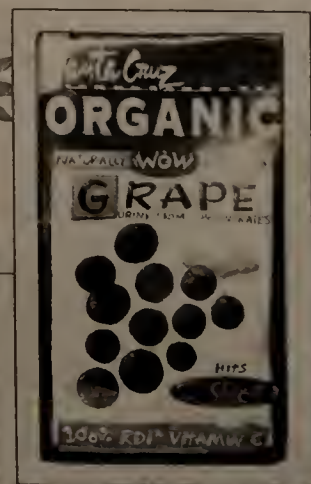


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## LETTERS 37¢

### Best Way to Conquer Fear: Be Prepared

Editor:

Thank you for giving front-page attention to the NERT program and the heightened anxiety felt by our residents ["Got the Jitters? Try Calming Your Nerves with NERT Training," by Sharon Gillenwater, March 2003 *Voice*].

As a longtime Noe Valley resident and as an emergency responder, I am twice grateful. Two items caught my attention, and I want to offer clarification to your readers.

The emergency checklist you offered says, "Give kids instructions on what to do if disaster strikes while they are at school." Please—for the safety of our children—parents should find out the emergency plan and procedures at the school, daycare, or activity program, and then reinforce this specific information with their children.

Many parents, with the best of intentions, tell their children things like "No matter what anyone tells you, if something happens, wait for Mommy or Daddy by the tree (or wherever) and we will come get you."

If that child sneaks away to get to that tree, what do you think will happen at the school when they discover a child is missing? What if that tree is in the middle of the danger zone, or what if Mommy or Daddy simply can't get there? This is a nightmare for all concerned.

I have trained hundreds of children, parents, and caregivers in emergency preparedness and disaster response. It is a real danger for children to get conflicting messages. One consistent message—reinforced from multiple sources—saves lives.

The article also listed "our nation's color-coded warning system" as one of the sources of anxiety. I serve on various terrorism preparedness committees and several emergency management forums in California, representing community-based organizations and people with special needs. I also teach a course called "Community Preparedness for Terrorist Incidents," for the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI). Most of the upset and confusion about the color-coding system comes from taking a system that reflects monitored "chatter" (conversations, e-mails, and movement of suspected terrorists) and seeing it as an accurate predictor of imminent terrorist attack.

We do not yet have an accurate predictor of terrorist attacks. We also do not have an accurate predictor for earthquakes. But we monitor daily seismic activity across California. However, we do not "drop, cover, and hold" every time we learn there is seismic activity somewhere in the state. That would quickly shatter nerves and budgets, leaving everyone much more vulnerable.

Instead, we accept the reality of living in quake country. We take basic precautions, such as preparing an earthquake kit, bolting and bracing heavy furniture to the

wall studs, and learning how and when to turn off gas and other utilities.

If you want to do your part to break the victim cycle, take back the economy and walk the world feeling safe again, the answer is simple: *prepare now*. When you are unprepared, fears and opportunists are running the show, just as they did for Y2K. No matter the color of the alert, the most helpful, sensible, and sustainable response will always be to listen to your local news and take actions based on what you hear.

If there is a credible threat to your community, and your local emergency responders are mobilizing, this is your cue to:

1. Do everything possible to avoid the area and not be a victim.
2. Do everything possible to stop your associates and loved ones from being victims.

Having preprinted maps with alternate routes to and from the places you frequent, and having emergency communication plans and reunification plans will be a huge help.

Dealing with the threat of terrorism, the realities of war, and our troubled economy—all at the same time—may be the largest, most distasteful elephant we've ever been served. We still need to eat it one bite at a time.

President Bush and the Department of Homeland Security are in control of many things. But whether our children go to bed feeling safe and secure is totally in our control. Whether we are prepared to respond as a strong, united, and resilient community, working as full partners with our local emergency responders, is also in our control. I urge you to embrace bumper-sticker wisdom—"Think Globally; Act Locally." And what better place to do this than in our own beautiful neighborhood?

For free emergency preparedness and disaster response support for community organizations serving seniors, children, people with disabilities, and others with special needs, please go to [www.PrepareNow.org](http://www.PrepareNow.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Ana-Marie Jones, Executive Director  
CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters) of Alameda County

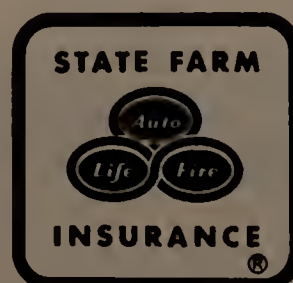
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Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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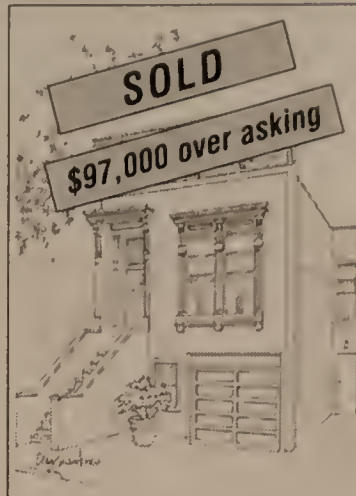
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## Jewish Renaissance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their own matzo, which brings the excitement of the holiday right to them.

"We're doing it in Noe Valley for the first time," Potash says.

### This Year's Focus on Peace

By now, the basic outline of the Passover story is fairly well known to most Christians and non-Christians. The holiday celebrates the exodus of Jews from slavery in Egypt 3,300 years ago, during the reign of pharaohs Ramses II and his son Merneptah. Led by Moses, the Jews escaped across the Red Sea, only to wander in the desert wilderness for 40 years before reaching their homeland.

Jews commemorate Passover with a feast called a *seder*, which includes a recounting of the exodus, and a meal with foods that symbolize the story of the Hebrew slaves. Horseradish, for example, represents the pain and suffering of slavery, while a hardboiled egg represents life.

Passover takes on a special significance this year because of the violence, suffering, and anguish emanating from the war in Iraq. Organizers of this year's community seders say peace will be uppermost in their minds.

"There's that sense to remember those who are less fortunate and to reflect on the issues of the world at large," says Potash, whose 80-member Orthodox congregation meets in his home on Elizabeth Street. "There will be prayers expressed for peace and freedom for all mankind—not just for the Jewish religion."

Passover services at Beyt Tikkun, a Jewish Renewal congregation, will have a "major focus" on peace, and will also address "the obligation of Jews to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to self-liberation," Gabel says. "As we celebrate the Jews' emancipation from Egypt," says Gabel, "the same principles and aspects of Jewish identity should lead Jewish people to support the legitimate aspirations of Palestinian people."

### "The Wizard of Oyz"

Passover is mostly celebrated in people's homes, with family and friends. But for the past few years, Noe Valley residents Michael and Liz Schaffer and G'dali Braverman have been major players in a seder that has become so popular it has been moved to outdoor venues such as Stern Grove and the Las Vegas desert. This year's event will be staged in the Berkeley hills.

"The commandment is to retell the story [of the Exodus] as if it's in your own time and your own place—and we took it seriously," says Liz Schaffer, a financial management consultant.

"My husband and a friend always write an original musical for seder—and it's based on different themes," she explains.

One year, the musical was set to songs from *The Sound of Music*, and last year it was a spin-off of *The Wizard of Oz*—renamed "The Wizard of Oyz."

"The story of 'Oyz' works pretty well for the Exodus," says Schaffer. "We didn't have a tin man. We had a gold man and Glenda the Matzo Queen."

This time, the composers have decided to rework popular Beatles songs and weave them into the Passover story. Replacing the familiar "Love Me Do" will be the tune "Love, Love Me Jew."

### 15 Percent of Noe Valley

These days, Jewish spirituality doesn't end at the conclusion of Passover.

Wernick of Sha'ar Zahav, a progressive Reform synagogue with a large gay membership, says he has noticed an overall increase in participation, especially since the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center.



Vicki Rosen and husband Randy Zielinski will celebrate Passover with family and friends at their home on Valley Street.

Photos by Beverly Tharp

"The unfortunate events of Sept. 11 have really heightened people's spiritual needs," he says. "That and other world events have heightened people's Jewish identity."

Many Noe Valley residents are among the new faces in the congregation, led by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel. "We did an analysis of our most recent members, and about 15 to 20 percent of new folk were from Noe Valley," says Wernick.

In fact, the neighborhood was the "single largest geographical" area of growth for the congregation, which has roughly 450 families. New members were fairly evenly divided between traditional and "new lifestyle" families, Wernick notes.

Rabbi Potash of Chabad, who wears the Hasidic accouterments of a long black beard, long sideburns, and black clothes, says he's aware of a Jewish presence whenever he walks the streets of Noe Valley.

"I'm surrounded by Jews. I see Jewish faces. I get smiles and waves and acknowledgements" that carry the message: "I don't know you, but I know what you're about."

From his work and observations during the past few years, Potash has concluded, "There are a lot of Jews in Noe Valley—definitely more than 3,000. Just walking down the street, you see lots of *mezuzahs* in the doorways." *Mezuzahs* are small artifacts that identify a house-

hold as Jewish.

If Potash's estimate is accurate, Jews would comprise nearly 15 percent of the 21,000 residents in Noe Valley, a neighborhood that was predominantly Italian, Irish, and German through the late 1960s.

"I've lived in Noe Valley on and off for 30 years," says Beyt Tikkun's Gabel, a trustee and former president of the New College of California law school.

"It's always been politically progressive, but there is a distinctive spiritual element that has been increasing in the last 10 years," says Gabel, who lives on Elizabeth Street with his partner Lisa Jaicks and their son, Sam.

### Temporary Homes at the Ministry

The Or Shalom Jewish Community was an early arrival in Noe Valley. It began to hold religious services in 1991 at the Noe Valley Ministry, a Presbyterian church on Sanchez Street that also opens its doors to other religious and community activities.

In just five years, the Ministry's facility proved too small for Or Shalom's growing staff and congregation, which then numbered 128 households—approximately 20 to 30 percent of them Noe Valley residents. In 1996, Or Shalom moved to larger quarters in the Twin Peaks area and now has some 200 households.

"Another Jewish congregation moved in behind us," says Rabbi Pam Baugh, referring to Beyt Tikkun's arrival at the Ministry in late 1996.

During its founding year, Beyt Tikkun—whose spiritual leader is nationally prominent rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun* magazine—held Shabbat services two Friday evenings a month at the Noe Valley Ministry.

But in 1997, the synagogue moved to San Francisco's Jewish Community Center on California Street. When the JCC was closed for renovation some three years ago, Beyt Tikkun returned to the Ministry. Since then, the membership has continued to expand, both here and in the East Bay (meetings also take place at a synagogue in Berkeley).

### Being "Out" About Jewishness

Valley Street resident Vicki Rosen is one of those who appreciates the increase in Jewish activities. Though she wasn't particularly seeking them out, Rosen remembers that there were few Jewish gath-

### Local Jewish Congregations

#### Beyt Tikkun Synagogue

Rabbi Michael Lerner

Business Office:

2107 Van Ness Ave., Suite 302

San Francisco, CA 94109

415-575-1432; [www.beyttikkun.org](http://www.beyttikkun.org)

E-mail [info@beyttikkun.org](mailto:info@beyttikkun.org)

Beyt Tikkun holds Shabbat services every other Friday at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street (415-282-2317). This month, on Friday, April 4, the Ministry will host the Children's Shabbat service at 6 p.m. and a vegetarian potluck Shabbat celebration at 7 p.m. On Friday, April 18, Beyt Tikkun will hold Shabbat services at Synergy School, 1387 Valencia Street.

#### Chabad of Noe Valley

Rabbi Gedalia Potash

889 Elizabeth Street

San Francisco, CA 94114

415-902-0886;

[www.chabadnoevalley.org](http://www.chabadnoevalley.org)

Chabad of Noe Valley offers religious school for children on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Friday Shabbat dinner is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday services are at 10 a.m.

#### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

290 Dolores Street at 16th Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

415-861-6932; [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

E-mail [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org)

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav holds *Ma'ariv* services on Friday evenings, 7:30 p.m.; *shacharit* services are held at 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

#### Or Shalom Jewish Community

Rabbi Pam Baugh

20 Woodside Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94127

415-242-9992

erings in Noe Valley when she arrived in 1972. Today, she is an active member of Chabad House and gets together with the rabbi's wife and other women for Rosh Chodesh activities, which "involves discussions of various things of interest to Jewish women."

"I reconnected to my Jewishness fairly recently, a few years ago," says Rosen, who works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "My parents have always been fairly religious, so they have been delighted to see this Jewish renewal in me."

On Passover, Rosen, who is also president of the residents' group Upper Noe Neighbors, plans to attend two seders—one at Chabad House and another at home with husband Randy Zielinski, daughter Erin, and perhaps a few close friends.

Like Rosen, Howard Steiermann, who's lived in Noe Valley since 1993, has also noticed more Jewish visibility in the neighborhood.

"There are more Jews who are coming into Noe Valley, and Jews who are more 'out' about their Jewishness," says Steiermann, a real estate appraiser and Sha'ar Zahav board member. "They're more interested in exploring their roots and exploring their spirituality."

He says his congregation's directory is a telling indicator of how things have changed. One glance and he can easily locate a Jewish neighbor, should he need a ride from his home to the synagogue.

Steiermann remembers the recent Purim holiday "where we read the story of Esther"—about a Jew married to a Persian king who uses her wiles to foil a plot to slaughter the kingdom's Jewish population. "People typically dress up as one of the characters in the story," says Steiermann. "I was dressed as Queen Esther and wearing a tiara" and standing on a Noe Valley street corner waiting for a neighbor to pick him up.

"It was wonderful to dress up with three other people and carpool off to the synagogue." □



Noe Valley resident Howard Steiermann, who is active in Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, holds up a plate that will be used at the group's Passover seder (feast).

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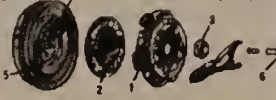
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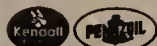
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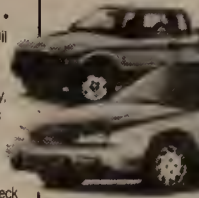
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The Voice welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Noe Valley Voice is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Editorial Office: 415-821-3324

E-mail: [editor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalleyvoice.com)

Web Site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)

Distribution: Call Misba at 415-752-1726

Display Advertising:

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Class Ads: See Page 51

Display Advertising Deadline for the  
May Issue: April 18, 2003

Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: April 15, 2003

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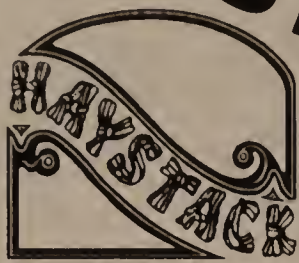
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## The Cost of Living in Noe

### Fewer Homes for Sale

By Corrie M. Anders

Six single-family homes and two condominiums were sold in Noe Valley during February, including one house for just over \$1 million.

The total of eight sales was a 50 percent decline from the 16 homes and condos sold during February one year ago, according to data Zephyr Real Estate prepared for the *Noe Valley Voice*.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's 24th Street office manager, said that sales were constrained because fewer homes were available to buyers. In contrast, many more homes were on the market during the comparable period the previous year.

"It's not so much that there weren't buyers buying," he said. "It's that sellers were not selling."

The supply of homes during March has started to increase—as it tradition-

ally does during the spring. "But there are still more buyers than sellers."

The average price buyers paid in February 2003 for a detached house was \$843,667. And buyers on average paid 3 percent more than the seller's original asking price.

Randall noted that buyers consistently have bid up properties during the last few years—paying 6 percent above the asking price in February of 2001 and an average 5 percent premium in February of last year.

This February's most expensive detached house was a three-bedroom, three-bath jewel in the 400 block of Duncan Street. The selling price was \$1,060,000.

Two properties in the two-to-four-unit category sold for more than \$1 million: Buyers paid \$1.4 million for a multiunit property in the 900 block of Diamond Street, and \$1.1 million for another in the 200 block of Duncan Street. □

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
Feb. 03	6	\$660,000	\$1,060,000	\$843,667	32	103%
Jan. 03	10	\$580,000	\$1,553,500	\$936,950	68	98%
Feb. 02	11	\$525,000	\$1,470,000	\$881,861	42	105%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
Feb. 03	2	\$595,000	\$780,000	\$687,500	87	100%
Jan. 03	0	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. 02	5	\$430,000	\$750,000	\$615,300	49	97%
<b>2 to 4 unit buildings</b>						
Feb. 03	4	\$781,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,035,875	66	98%
Jan. 03	4	\$895,000	\$1,160,000	\$1,053,750	60	97%
Feb. 02	2	\$825,000	\$950,000	\$887,500	28	96%
<b>5+ unit buildings</b>						
Feb. 03	0	—	—	—	—	—
Jan. 03	0	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. 02	0	—	—	—	—	—

\*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyr-re.com](http://www.zephyr-re.com)) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (escrow closings) recorded during month. "Noe Valley" in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

NVV 4/03

### Noe Valley Rents\*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (Oct. - Dec. 2002)	Average Rents a Year Ago (Oct. - Dec. 2001)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Studio	\$ 1,126 / mo.	\$ 1,137 / mo.	-.967%
1 bedroom	1,570 / mo.	1,657 / mo.	-5.3%
2 bedrooms	2,093 / mo.	2,373 / mo.	-11.8%
3 or more bedrooms	2,906 / mo.	2,931 / mo.	-.853%

\*Source: Rent Tech, Inc. ([www.renttech.com](http://www.renttech.com)).

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| 3. Hellooo! A bubble is about to burst. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. I'm self-employed.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. There's nothing in my price range.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
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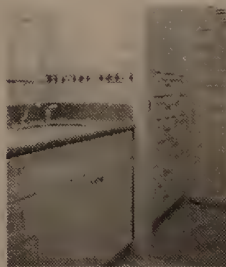
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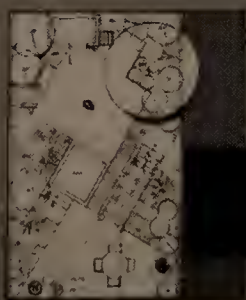
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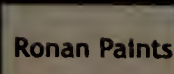
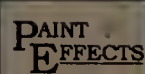


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## Senior Center Fights to Save Meal Program

By Laura McLale Holland

The sharp blade of the budget ax may soon fall on a program that has served low-cost midday meals to Noe Valley seniors for more than two decades.

But the men and women who attend the Noe Valley Senior Center, located within the Noe Valley Ministry at Sanchez and 23rd streets, are lobbying hard to keep what they see as their only opportunity for a daily hot lunch and social camaraderie.

"I come here because it's close to my house," says 22nd Street resident Ann Trutt, who suffers from macular degeneration in her left eye. "If they take this place away from me, I don't know what I'm going to do."

The bad news came last month from the city's Office on the Aging, which oversees funding for 19 sites serving the elderly in San Francisco. Due to looming budget cuts, the Office has recommended to Project Open Hand, the organization that supplies weekday meals to the Noe Valley Senior Center, that it cease deliveries to all sites serving fewer than 30 members. Since the Noe Valley center feeds only about 20 seniors a day, it may be on the chopping block at the start of the next fiscal year in July.

Julie Wasem, director of Senior Services at Project Open Hand, confirmed that she was under pressure to drop the smaller meal sites. However, she said, "We still included Noe Valley in our proposal to the Office on the Aging this year. And we stated why we think the site should remain open, even though it serves fewer than 30 people." She added that



Members of the Noe Valley Senior Center are writing letters to the mayor's office, urging that their weekday lunch program be spared the next round of city budget cuts. Photo by Beverly Thorp

Open Hand probably would not know the outcome of the budget battle "until late May or June."

Meanwhile, the staff and members of the Noe Valley Senior Center are wringing their hands. "The seniors are very anxious," says site coordinator Wendy Cohen. "Without the meals, the center would have to close."

Cohen says many of those who attend the noon program live within a few blocks of the church. Some are frail or disabled, she says, and would have a hard time walking or taking the bus to another site.

Senior Helen Yturriaga, who has been walking to the center for lunch from her Chattanooga Street home for 15 years, agrees, noting that the two closest sites are the Diamond Senior Center in the Castro and On Lok Senior Services on 30th Street. "One is up a big hill, and the other is eight to 10 blocks away," she says.

For Sanchez Street resident Joel Abramson, whose mobility has been im-

paired by a stroke, traveling to another senior center is not practical.

"I'm too unsteady getting on buses," Abramson says. "I can't cook because my hand is not steady, so I wouldn't go anywhere if the center closes. I might make myself a sandwich, but I don't like losing the companionship of the people at the center."

Even those who can easily get to another center say they would miss the fellowship of their small group.

"I've made so many friends here. It's very congenial," says Edith Hartnett, a 25th Street resident who has been coming to the center for 15 years. "Then there's the shopping nearby—the bank, post office, the grocery store. I can do all sorts of little errands when I do lunch."

The program, which was started in the early '80s, has been threatened twice before. Originally a satellite of the 30th Street Senior Center, it was slated to close in 1992 as a result of budget cuts. Members approached the Salvation Army,

which took over until it lost its contract in 1998 after refusing to provide benefits for domestic partners. The center then approached Project Open Hand, which has run the program ever since. The seniors pay a \$1.50 donation to receive a hot lunch.

Cohen, who's been coordinating the program for 4½ years, also arranges exercise and nutrition classes for the participants. She offers free haircuts as well. "I've seen many seniors come through our doors. I've seen them until the end, until they die," she says, adding, "The people here are really close. It's important that they continue to have a place to go."

In late March, the seniors were busy writing letters to Mayor Willie Brown, and seeking help from Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Ministry Pastor Keenan Kelsey, and other friends and neighbors in Noe Valley. They also were inviting local residents to join their ranks, so they could reach the magic number of 30.

"We waged a campaign before to keep it open and managed to do so," says Lois Hoskins, who has attended the center with her husband Bill for a dozen years. "We're going to see if we can do it again." □

*If you would like to join or otherwise help out the Noe Valley Senior Center, stop by the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, any weekday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. You must be 60 years old to be eligible for a \$1.50 meal, but younger people can also buy lunch for full price (\$3.75). To make a meal reservation, call Wendy Cohen at 648-1030.*





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# POLICE BEAT

**P**olice Beat is a monthly roundup of crimes reported in Noe Valley, which the *Voice* defines as the area bounded by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations during the month of February 2003.

**Theft from Merchant: 2:55 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1; 3900 block of 24th Street**

Shortly before 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, a passerby ran up to a police officer on patrol near 24th and Vicksburg to report that a man had stolen an espresso machine on sale at a café in the 3900 block of 24th Street. When the officer spotted the suspect at the Muni stop at 24th and Church and asked to speak to him, the man ran down 24th Street toward Chattanooga. The suspect disappeared down 23rd Street, and the officer was unable to catch him. However, the passerby who had reported the incident told the officer the suspect had left the espresso machine at the corner of 24th and Church. The officer retrieved the machine and returned it to the café, where the manager identified it. He told the officer that witnesses had seen the suspect take it from a shelf, wrap it in newspaper, and leave. The espresso machine was slightly damaged in the incident.

**Shoplifting: 2:40 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1; 4000 block of 24th Street**

On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 1, a man entered a wine shop in the 4000 block of 24th Street. As the man was leaving the store after looking around for a bit, an employee who was working at the counter noticed that the man appeared to have hidden a bottle of wine in his pants leg. The owner of the store then discovered that a \$100 bottle of wine was missing from the shelf.

**Residential Burglary: Between 4:30 and 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1; 1300 block of Sanchez Street**

A resident of the 1300 block of Sanchez near 26th Street exited his home at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, to go to dinner. He left a bathroom window open slightly. When he returned home at 10 p.m., he noticed that the window was

completely open. He checked his bedroom and discovered that an antique wedding band, a designer watch, and his Sony headphones were missing from the top of his dresser. A Hewlett-Packard laptop computer was missing from the desk in another bedroom. Because the resident had touched the bathroom window prior to the police's arrival and because no other physical evidence was apparent, Crime Scene Investigations was not called. The case has been assigned to the San Francisco Police Department's Burglary Detail.

**Petty Theft: 5:50 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4; 4000 block of 24th Street**

Shortly before 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, an employee and the owner of a flower store in the 4000 block of 24th Street flagged down a patrol car after witnessing a man walk by the shop, grab 10 bouquets of flowers from a stand outside the store, and leave without paying for them. The employee and the owner stopped the man in front of another store a few doors down. Police arrested the suspect for petty theft and took him to Mission Station for booking. A records search showed that the 66-year-old suspect had been jailed previously for attempted burglary and petty theft.

**Theft from Locked Vehicle: Between 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, and 6 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6; 3500 block of 22nd Street**

At 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, a man parked and locked his 1988 Ford F150 truck on the 3500 block of 22nd Street near Dolores. When he returned to his vehicle early the next morning, he discovered that the black rubber seal around his rear window had been pulled off and the window pried out. A CD player, garage door opener, power drill, briefcase, cell phone, set of keys, and two pairs of glasses were among the things missing from the truck. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

**Residential Burglary: Between 12:30 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6; 500 block of Duncan Street**

A couple who live in the 500 block of Duncan Street near Noe left their home at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6. When they returned at 7 p.m., they noticed nothing out of the ordinary. The next morning, however, they discovered that three cameras were missing from the dining room table and a laptop computer was missing from a bedroom.

They did not hear any noises or disturbances during the night. Police found no

signs of forced entry, and the residents believe they may have left their back door unlocked while they were away from home on Feb. 6. Crime Scene Investigations was called to the home to check for fingerprints. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

**Malicious Mischief/Vandalism to Property: 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 10; 1700 block of Church Street**

At 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, a 15-year-old boy walked into a café in the 1700 block of Church Street near 30th. He allegedly cut in front of a line of customers and told the owner of the café to warm up a burrito he was carrying. The owner told the boy to get in line with the rest of the customers. The youth then left, only to return minutes later and throw the burrito toward the front counter. The burrito hit a shelf on the back wall of the café and broke three tall drinking glasses. The teen ran away and boarded a Muni train.

A day later, the café owner spotted the boy hanging out with a group of teenagers at the bus stop near his shop. He pointed out the boy to a police officer patrolling the area. The officer detained him, and the boy said, "I just went inside to get my burrito warmed up. I didn't throw it." The boy was then taken to Ingleside Station, cited and released to his father, who came to the station to pick him up. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Juvenile Division.

**Burglary of Apartment House: Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11; 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street**

Upon returning home from work at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, the owner of an apartment building in the 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street near Noe noticed that the front door of a tenant's apartment had been vandalized. The door lock was missing, the door jamb was damaged, and pieces of wood were lying on the ground.

The tenant was not at home. The owner then went into another apartment, which was vacant, and discovered that a window with access to the building's backyard had been broken.

When police arrived, they searched the backyard and discovered a freshly discarded Budweiser can on a path leading to a short wooden fence. When the tenant of the burglarized apartment arrived on the scene, he found that a digital camera, CD burner, watch, headphones, cigarette lighter, and many CDs were missing from his living room and bedroom.

Due to lack of other physical evidence, Crime Scene Investigations was not notified. The beer can was booked as evidence at Mission Station, and the case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

**Residential Burglary: Between noon on Saturday, Feb. 15, and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16; 200 block of 29th Street**

A resident of the 200 block of 29th Street near Dolores left her home at noon on Saturday, Feb. 15. When she returned at 6:30 p.m. the next day, she walked into the kitchen to let her dog out through the back door and noticed that the dog door had been pushed up and the back door unlocked. She also noticed that a window screen next to the door was bent and a white lawn chair had been tipped over. She went into her bedroom and found her dresser drawers open and her jewelry boxes moved around. Several pieces of fine jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets, a pair of earrings, and a designer watch, were missing from the bedroom, along with two Dell laptop computers.

Police responded to the home, and called Crime Scene Investigations for additional follow-up. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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# POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

**Residential Burglary: Between 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, and 7 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 17; 1300 block of Noe Street**

In the early morning of Monday, Feb. 17, a resident returned to his home in the 1300 block of Noe near 26th Street, after being gone since late Saturday afternoon. He found the front door wide open and several items, including a paint sprayer, toolbox, hand drill, computer printer, and Toshiba docking station (laptop accessory), missing from his garage and kitchen.

After arriving on the scene, police noticed that the front door had been forced open and the door jamb damaged. The home was undergoing remodeling, so the resident had not been living on the premises. Police contacted Crime Scene Investigations for follow-up. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

**Petty Theft: Noon on Sunday, Feb. 16; 3900 block of 24th Street**

At noon on Sunday, Feb. 16, the manager of a coffee shop in the 3900 block of 24th Street saw a man come into the store. The manager then went to use the men's room and left other employees at the counter to tend to customers. Soon, the man began pounding on the men's room door. The manager told the man he would be out soon. When he returned to duty, the manager heard employees yelling that the same man had "got the tip jar." The manager looked out the store window and saw

the suspect get on a red-brick-colored mountain bike and flee east on 24th Street and south on Sanchez. The tip jar contained \$20. The suspect was described as a 45-year-old white male, 5'7", 140 pounds with blond hair. He was wearing blue jeans, a baseball derby jacket, a baseball cap, and tennis shoes.

**Bicycle Theft: Between 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16, and 8:40 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17; 26th and Castro streets**

A man parked and locked his bicycle on the corner of 26th and Castro streets at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16. When he returned at 8:40 p.m. the next day, his bicycle—a green seven-speed Dahon Express folding model—was missing, along with his bicycle lock and rear rack.

**Shoplifting: 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16; 3800 block of 24th Street**

At 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16, a woman walked into a liquor store in the 3800 block of 24th Street and took three bottles of Patron tequila from the shelf, placed them in a shopping bag, and walked out of the store. The suspect is described as a white female in her late 30s, 5'8", 150 pounds, with dark curly hair and red spots on her chin. She was wearing a long black leather coat and red pants.

**Malicious Mischief/Vandalism to Vehicle: 3:50 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19; 1300 block of Noe Street**

At 3:50 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, a resident of the 1300 block of Noe Street near 26th Street heard screaming outside his window. He looked and saw a large crowd of teenagers gathered near his Toyota Avalon. Two of the teens began to fight near his car. The resident yelled, "Get away from my car," and the group of teens left the area. He then went to check on his car and noticed a dent on the

rear passenger side. One of the teens who had participated in the fight was still hanging around and told the resident that he and another boy had arranged to have a fight after school because the other boy had been teasing him. He said the boy had pushed him against the resident's car, presumably causing the dent.

**Suspicious Occurrence/Verbal Threats: 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19; Castro and Jersey streets**

A panhandler reported to police that she had been "threatened and intimidated" by another female panhandler and now feared for her safety. The two women had been arguing over whose territory it was to sell the *Street Sheet*, a publication of the city's Coalition on Homelessness. The panhandler said the other woman had demanded she hand over her copies of the *Street Sheet* and told her, "You've been here too long. You've got to move on." The first woman also claimed that at about 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the corner of Castro and Jersey streets, the other woman threatened her, saying, "If I find you talking to [police], I am going to beat you down and catch you at 24th and Mission when you're on your way home and I'll have someone hurt you." The threat allegedly was made in front of another panhandler, a male.

**Burglary of Flat: Between 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23; 300 block of Duncan Street**

A resident of the 300 block of Duncan near Church Street returned to her flat at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, after being gone for two days. She discovered that several bracelets, including a two-carat diamond tennis bracelet and a gold watch, were missing from her bedroom. An Olympus camera also was missing from her kitchen table. Police believe the suspect entered through an open bedroom window, which was accessible from the roof of the building. Crime Scene Investigations was called to check for fingerprints. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

**Hot Prowl Burglary: Between 12:30 and 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22; 1000 block of Noe Street**

At 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, a resident left his apartment in the 1000 block of Noe near 23rd Street. One of his roommates was out of town, and the other was at home at the time. When he returned at 7:30 a.m. the next day, the front door was unlocked and open. The back door also was unlocked, and his roommate was asleep. He then discovered that his \$1,200 bicycle was missing from his bedroom. In addition, a Leatherman knife had been taken from his backpack, and two credit cards were missing from the top drawer of his desk. He also noticed that paper from his printer had been placed in his backpack and that two keys were missing from the kitchen table. His roommate told him that he had been home all night and that he had gone to bed at 12:30 a.m. and heard no noise. Crime Scene Investigations was called for follow-up. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail.

**Burglary of Apartment House: Between 9 a.m. and 5:25 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24; 3900 block of 22nd Street**

Shortly before 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, the resident of a three-unit apartment building in the 3900 block of 22nd Street near Castro called police to report that he had seen a man in the rear stairwell of his building, eating ice cream and holding items he believed to be stolen. The resident asked the man to leave several times, but he refused and told the resident that he was doing work for "the people

downstairs." The resident became concerned when the man could not tell him the correct names of his neighbors. He threatened to call police if the man would not leave, and the man told him that he had lost his car keys and could not leave.

The man then walked to his car, which was parked in front of the building, and began filling two large white pillowcases with small objects from the car. The resident saw the man carry the loaded pillowcases to Castro Street. He then returned to his car, where police found him when they arrived on the scene. Police detained the man and searched the apartment building and discovered that the back door of one unit had been forced open and was badly damaged. No one was inside the unit, which was in disarray with items strewn about.

When the residents of the ransacked apartment arrived, they recognized the man as having visited their home over a year ago with a mutual friend. Police located the two pillowcases in the bushes in front of a building in the 900 block of Castro Street. The pillowcases were filled with items ranging from fine jewelry to electronics equipment to cashmere sweaters, credit cards, and a collection of bills and receipts with account numbers and personal information. The residents of the ransacked apartment identified all the items as theirs, including the pillowcases. Police then contacted a third tenant in the building to find out if his home had been burglarized. He told them that nothing was missing from his unit, but that his tool kit was gone from the back porch.

The suspect was arrested for burglary, and Crime Scene Investigations was called to the building for follow-up. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Detail. □

*The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo and Ingleside Police Officer Mike Smith for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Kathy Dalle-Molle.*



## Battaglia Stands In At Mission Station

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his father and uncle were pharmacists. He currently lives in Marin County.

Although he "spent the first 52 1/2 years of my life in San Francisco," Battaglia admits that he's not too familiar with Noe Valley. "I don't know Noe Valley that well," he says, "but I talk with [beat officer] Lorraine Lombardo almost every day, so I'm up to speed on what's going on there. I know there have been a lot of burglaries in the area recently."

Battaglia also says he doesn't plan to make any changes at the station during his

time as commander.

"We're just going to keep doing what we've been doing with the narcotics detail, the street enforcement, the prostitution detail, community policing, etc.," he says. "Everything has been working well."

However, he acknowledges that the entire Police Department "is being tested by the public right now."

"I do think we need to work to change the perception of what people think of us as officers," he says. "I fear that a lot of people hate us right now. Our badges are supposed to mean that we have some authority and that we should be taken seriously. But given what's occurred, that's come into question, and we need to deal with that perception while continuing to do our duty." □



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### Your Links to the SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in the Mission and Ingleside police districts. The next meeting at Mission Station will be Tuesday, April 29, 6 p.m., at 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. The next Ingleside meeting will be Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue.

Residents and merchants who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street can report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the non-traceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Those who live or work in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez—can reach Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Capt. Kevin Dillon at [kevin\\_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us).

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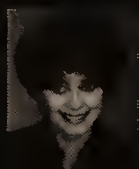
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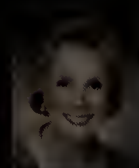
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## People Pouring into Lovejoy's Tea Room

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

British purveyor. Nash also stocks an assortment of flavored and green teas and tisanes (herbal teas).

Briley is the organizer of the two, and has set up a guest-book and voice-mail reservation system that keeps the tables full and the customers happy. "Because of the system, people feel they can count on us," says Nash, pointing to the guest book Briley designed.

### "A Great Girl Place"

During the week, Lovejoy's is a fairly quiet place where Noe Valley regulars linger over books or conversation, often for an entire afternoon. But on weekends, the tearoom is transformed into a lively mecca for baby and bridal showers. (Take note: Reservations should be made well in advance, and customers can keep their tables for up to two hours.)

Lisa, a young woman who lives in Cow Hollow, recently chose Lovejoy's as the venue for her friend's baby shower.

"It's unique," she says. "All my friends go here for showers. I've heard of three showers going on here in just the last few days. I made these reservations weeks ago."

Lovejoy's is ideal for birthday parties, get-togethers with friends, and as a place to take Mom. In fact, Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year, say Nash and Briley. They also estimate that, day-in and day-out, 90 percent of their customers are women.

Christie, who is from Kentfield in Marin County, arranged a bridal shower for a party of 12 women friends after attending a shower at Lovejoy's. "It's a great girl place," she says simply.

Theresa Hanna, who lives across the Bay Bridge in Piedmont, first heard about Lovejoy's from a Noe Valley friend and has visited numerous times with her daughters, husband, and friends who live in San Francisco.

"I like it because you can construct your own tea," says Hanna, who recently celebrated her birthday at Lovejoy's. "The sandwiches are varied and unusual. I also like the funky, casual atmosphere because it creates a feeling of being in your own home and having the best tea you could ever make but not having to do any work. It's also fun to see all the sweet gatherings of women celebrating and



The china cupboards, lace curtains, and bric-a-brac on the walls all contribute to the homey atmosphere at Lovejoy's Tea Room on Church Street. But if you're looking for a quiet time to linger over your teacup, it's best to stop by on a weekday.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

honoring each other. I sometimes wonder how men feel, though," she adds.

### An Affordable Luxury

They feel like they're on *Oprah*. "We get some gay male couples who come in on their own, but straight men are often dragged in with a girlfriend or wife," Nash says with a laugh. "They worry they aren't going to get enough to eat."

But with hearty fare such as chicken potpie and sausage rolls rounding out the Cream Tea and High Tea—two finger sandwiches, a scone with Devon cream, green salad, fruit, English coleslaw, shortbread cookie, and a pot of tea—no one need worry about going hungry.

Finally, perhaps the biggest reason Lovejoy's remains successful is that it is an affordable luxury. For about \$15, one can meet friends over tea, sandwiches, and sweets in a peaceful, calm setting. And in these tumultuous times, a little peace is priceless.

*Lovejoy's Antiques and Tea Room is located at 1351 Church Street, at the corner of Clipper Street. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Fridays until 7 p.m.). The number for reservations is 648-5895.* ☐



Lovejoy's owners Gillian Briley and Muna Nash (right) may sometimes feel as if they're at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, but they're happy about the success of their enterprise.

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## This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

**D**id you know that Friends of Noe Valley president **Jeannene Przyblyski** is also executive director of the San Francisco Bureau of Urban Secrets? (No, this is not an April Fool's joke, and the Bureau of Urban Secrets is not a new division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.)

"The Bureau was founded as a way of engaging people with ideas about our city's history and how we use it in our everyday lives. The objective is to make people think about the city as a place of experiences and pleasure and community, rather than just a frustrating place where one happens to live," says Przyblyski. "It's an alternative arts program. We have museums, galleries, and then we have groups like the Bureau of Urban Secrets for whom the whole city is a gallery. We tend not to work in traditional art contexts so much, but in other contexts, such as parks and streets," she says.

And what sort of projects might this lead to? The latest one is called *Urban Essence: The Scent of San Francisco*. It is a perfume now on sale at 826 Valencia, a center founded by best-selling author Dave Eggers that provides free tutoring, workshops, and classes for youth ages 8 to 18. *Urban Essence* has joined the center's inventory of books, pirate supplies (eye patches, glass eyes, pirate flags, spy glasses, maps, wooden dice), and a line of perfumes with such monikers as *Siren*, *Buccaneer*, *Damsel*, *Cavalier*, and *Swash-buckler*. Store manager and perfume designer **Yosh Han** created all of the pirate-inspired scents. Han and Przyblyski collaborated on *Urban Essence*.

The project evolved from Przyblyski's membership in the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), a nonprofit, private urban policy think tank. "People who are in urban policy, design, and planning talk a lot about the essence of a great city—that it's something you have to cultivate and promote," says Przyblyski, who also teaches seminars in contemporary art and urbanism at the San Francisco Art Institute. "I would listen to them and think, well, what does the essence of a great city smell like?"

"And so *Urban Essence* was created out of a process of literally going around smelling the city, and then, with Yosh, translating those smells into a fragrance. Now, you can not only live in the city, but you can wear the city on you. The interesting thing about it is that scents change according to the person who wears them, so every time you wear some, you be-

come a part of the essence of the city. It's a very distinctive smell," she says.

A mix of Tunisian amber, East Indian sandalwood, neroli, China musk, custom 826 blend, Siberian fir, citronella, earth, and eucalyptus, it is, just like its name-sake, unique.

Since this is a cutting-edge art project and not a business venture, *Urban Essence* will be on sale only until Przyblyski gets a whiff of it on a passerby, she says. Then she'll take the perfume off the market.

Its price tag is \$45 per quarter-ounce at 826 Valencia, or you can order it through the Bureau of Urban Secrets, P.O. Box 460823, San Francisco, CA 94146. The Bureau sells an introductory package for \$7.50, which includes a sample and supporting documents. To find out more, e-mail [sf\\_bus@pacbell.net](mailto:sf_bus@pacbell.net).

Another art form is also flourishing in our midst. **Linda Carr**, head of the modern dance program at Berkeley High School and a resident of 25th Street since 1993, has a show at Noh Space April 4 to 26. Titled "28 very short scenes about love," it is a dance/theater performance created by a five-member ensemble, including Carr, who also directs.

"We created all of these little scenes last year, but now we've reworked it and are starting to see how the pieces are settling together," says Carr, who studied Action Theater with Ruth Zaporah and co-founded the critically acclaimed improvisational performance trio *Etiquette Physical Theater* in 1998.

"There's this amazing thing that happens when you're creating an ensemble piece," says Carr. At first, it feels like your private personal vision, "but then in working with other people, at some point the piece becomes its own entity, and not so much about you personally. My task [as director] becomes to serve the piece, to make sure the direction it is heading gets fulfilled. That's really exciting, challenging, and fun," she says.

As for what audience members will see at the show, she says, "The piece is funny and it's touching, and some parts of it are uncomfortable. The [scenes] show the harsher edge of romantic relationships and how communication can fall apart—how people can fight about nothing and everything at the same time."

Her poetic description on the show's web site ([www.28shortscenes.com](http://www.28shortscenes.com)) tells even more: "[A] pinwheel of elbows and knees flails beneath the calm monologue of a woman leaving her boyfriend; a man twitches, charms, and convulses his way across the stage before sputtering to his admirers, 'Don't touch me, I'm busy'; lovers sit in chairs that are slowly pulled in separate directions as a seemingly benign conversation turns to squabble...."

Carr's fellow dancer/actors are **Ed**

**Purver, Jenny Schaffer, Sean Seward, and Cassie Terman**. Tickets are \$15 for the show, which plays Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m., at the Noh Space Theater at 2840 Mariposa Street. To find out more, call 621-7978.

A neighbor who has brought us far more than 28 scenes is award-winning children's book author **Robert San Souci**. Robert is currently writing his 87th book. Nine books in his oeuvre are collaborations with his brother **Daniel San Souci**, an illustrator. Their first book was *The Legend of Scarface*, a Blackfeet Indian legend published in 1978.

On Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m., the brothers will appear at the Main Library for the seventh annual **Effie Lee Morris Lecture**, named for the woman who championed children's services at the San Francisco Public Library in the '60s and '70s. Their talk will be titled "Creative Collaboration with the Picture Book."

A majority of Robert San Souci's books are retellings of folk tales, myths, and legends from around the world. He also created the screen story for Disney's 1998 animated film *Mulan*, about a young Chinese girl who disguises herself as her father to take his place on the battlefield.

Robert says he is looking forward to talking about the creative process with fans in his hometown. "As a San Franciscan born and bred, it is particularly gratifying to be recognized on my home turf. I love traveling [having just returned from speaking engagements in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Missouri]. But I guess the ultimate satisfaction comes from realizing that family, friends, and the greater community have an appreciation for my writing, which tries to build bridges between cultures, nations, and historical eras," he says. "It's also wonderful to be saluting such a marvelous

person as Effie Lee Morris."

From now through April 30, the library will also display an exhibit, "Celebrating the Brothers San Souci," featuring their artwork and manuscripts.

Meanwhile, Robert is celebrating the sense of community here. "There's a wonderful feeling of being somehow in a college town or artists colony, with all the advantages of 'big-city living' no more than a ride away on the J-Church or 24-Divisadero," he observes.

Someone who has lived for 19 years on a street that once had a major encounter with the J-Church is **Jane Reed**. Reed, a resident of Chattanooga Street, points out that "some houses on our street were moved, some destroyed," during the construction of the streetcar line back in 1917.

To help us remember our roots, Reed and her neighbors are compiling a history of their quiet, tree-lined, speed-bumped road. "This has always been an important working-class community ever since the 1906 earthquake, when the golden fire hydrant on Church and 20th saved the Mission and what is now called Noe Valley," she says.

"We have a lot of San Francisco history on our street that we don't want to disappear. So as a neighborhood we have been compiling wonderful tales of our houses for each other and to share with the city. For example, the oldest house on our block is number 76, which was originally number 34, and was built in 1866. It was owned by a teamster and his brother, a city employee. The stories go on and on. If anyone has stories or details about this area, please pass them on," she requests.

You can reach her at [jane@janereed.com](mailto:jane@janereed.com).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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## This 'n' That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Another woman active in the neighborhood is **Lori Shannon**, who established See Jane Run on 24th Street, a women's athletic store, three years ago. She was mentioned in this column in November 2002, when she was named Established Entrepreneur of the Year by Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center. Now she has won another award: the San Francisco chapter of NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) has given her its 2003 Rising Star award.

"NAWBO is a group of extraordinary women. It's quite an honor to be recognized by them because most have been in business for a great deal of time with established companies. It's pretty cool," Shannon says.

If you want to meet this rising star yourself, stop in at the store's third-anniversary weekend celebration April 12 and 13. Shannon will be holding a donation drawing to benefit the Breast Cancer Fund.

One star who brightly glowed was former Noe Valley resident **Betty Garvey**. She was featured in this column last month because the senior center on Diamond Street that she founded in 1980 was renamed in her honor. Sadly, she died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on March 13. Garvey was 75 years old. Amazingly, she worked at the Betty Garvey Diamond Street Senior Center until a week before her death.

A graduate of St. James Girls Grammar School and of Immaculate Conception Academy, Garvey earned a bachelor's de-

gree from Oakland's Holy Names College in 1949 and a master's degree in social welfare from U.C. Berkeley in 1952. In addition to a career devoted to bettering the lives of senior citizens, she and her husband Frank (also deceased) raised five children, all of whom survive her: two daughters, Judith Garvey of San Francisco and Claudia Curran of Pleasanton, and three sons, Mark Garvey of San Francisco, Paul Garvey of Orinda, and John Garvey of Moraga.

Betty Garvey was a member of numerous clubs and civic organizations. She also competed in the race walk in the first National Senior Olympics in St. Louis in 1987. Subsequently, while in her 60s, she competed in the discus throw competition.

Garvey established a list of activities at the senior center that was long enough to exhaust a college student. The roster includes yoga; tai chi; origami; lessons in Chinese, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, and Japanese; tap dancing; country-western dance; walking groups; current affairs discussions; and outings to the theater, ballet, opera, symphony, and circus.

Indeed, she left a bold mark on this world, and will be missed. May we all be so inspired in this time of war, with all the heartbreaking repercussions it engenders.

Lift your neighbors' spirits with some good news. Let us smile at the charming idiosyncrasies of your babies and toddlers. Shower us with your smashing successes. Tell us about your school honors, athletic feats, engagements, weddings, CD releases, book parties, plays, art shows, or any other personal news worth sharing with your community.

E-mail leads to [thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com); mail them to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; or leave a phone message at 821-3324. ☐

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## You Too Can Become a Breast Cancer Activist

By Laura McHale Holland

**A** woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every 2 1/2 minutes in the United States. That's unacceptable, and we're working to change it," says single-breasted dynamo Barbara Brenner.

A 23rd Street resident for the past 25 years, Brenner is executive director of Breast Cancer Action (BCA), a San Francisco-based national organization of activists known as the "bad girls of breast cancer." "We want answers and we want them yesterday. We're going to too many funerals," says a feisty Brenner.

Frightening as the cancer statistics are, this group of 11,000 members is actually very hopeful. "We believe that everybody who cares can do something meaningful about the breast cancer problem. We have a magnet that says, 'Do something besides worry,'" says Brenner.

She stresses that activism can take many forms. "It's not about doing it full-time. It's not even about doing it a little bit every day. People can learn what they need to know, and individuals can influence policy in many different ways."

To help people get involved, BCA is



Barbara Brenner (left) and partner Suzanne Lampert have found that one of the best ways to cope with a diagnosis is to get active in the fight against breast cancer. Photo by Beverly Tharp

holding its sixth annual Town Meeting, on April 26 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 Ninth Street, in Oakland. This year's theme is "Coming Together: Moving from Illness to Activism." Keynote speakers will include KTVU-Channel 2 reporter Faith Fancher, who is being treated for breast cancer that has spread to her liver, and women's health policy analyst Holly Mitchell. Emceed by KPIX anchor Barbara Rodgers, the day will

also include music by Adrienne Torf and workshops on breast cancer activism.

The event is free, but donations are encouraged.

"Breast Cancer Action is the only national breast cancer organization that refuses to accept contributions from pharmaceutical companies or other companies known or suspected to profit from breast cancer, including corporate polluters," Brenner notes.

Brenner was diagnosed with and

treated for breast cancer in 1993, when she was a 41-year-old lawyer. A recurrence of the disease led to a mastectomy in 1996. Realizing that her time might be limited, she stepped up her activities in Breast Cancer Action to try to make an impact on women's health (she became BCA's executive director in 1995).

"Breast cancer has transformed me in terms of the work I do," she says. "I care very deeply about getting to the end of this. It's not about me. In a large degree, what's going to happen to me is out of my hands. But we have a generation of young people coming up who do not need to deal with what the baby-boomer generation is now dealing with in terms of breast cancer."

Brenner says you do not have to have breast cancer, or know anyone who has it, to come to the Town Meeting (call 510-532-7700 or go to [www.bcaction.org](http://www.bcaction.org)). The same is true for BCA, which you can reach by calling 415-243-9301 or writing Breast Cancer Action, 55 New Montgomery Street, Suite 323, San Francisco, CA 94105.

The group provides bimonthly task-force meetings, e-mail alerts, updates on the suspected causes of cancer, and access to an ever-widening circle of activists.

"I had great care and wonderful support throughout my illness," says Brenner. "If everybody in the world could get that, the world would be a much better place." ☐

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# STORE TREK

By Heidi Anderson

**S**ore Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new businesses in the neighborhood. This month, we take a look at a one-man shop on Church Street selling kitchen counters and cabinets, and a hair salon on Diamond, which also offers skin care and massage.

## BAMBOO SALON

810 Diamond Street near 24th  
415-824-4090

Hairstylist Alicia Elliott just can't stay away from Noe Valley. "We missed it here. Besides, those Wisconsin winters are brutal."

Some Noe Valley residents may remember Elliott from her days as the owner of Mop, a salon on 24th Street that is now operated by Bella Neimerovsky.

"I built Mop from the ground up, and ran it for three years. But then I got married, got pregnant, and wanted to move back home to Madison."

One winter and a baby girl later, Elliott and her husband, Kyle Elliott, decided they'd had enough of the Wisconsin weather and headed back to San Francisco.

"People are so friendly here, and they really remember you," she says, recalling a recent stroll down 24th Street with an out-of-town friend. "I was saying 'hi' to all the people I knew, and my friend turned to me and said, 'It's like walking around with a rock star.'"

After settling into her new home on 24th Street between Diamond and Douglass, Elliott started cutting hair for a few of her old clients. It wasn't long, however, before that became a problem. "All my stuff for hair was taking over the house!"

Not long after, during a casual conversation over the back fence with neighbors Ana Maria and Arturo Peña, Elliott landed the perfect place to open a salon. "[The Peñas] own their building, just around the corner from our house, and it had unused storefront space. They said they'd been thinking about opening the space up for retail."

The two couples struck a deal, and Elliott and her husband, a commercial architect, got to work on creating Bamboo. The salon opened on Feb. 14 in the storefront next door to Edward Jones Investments, on Diamond near 24th Street.

"I wanted to be as eco-friendly as possible, so we installed floors with wood from sustainable forests, and I used glass tiles from a company that uses 90 percent of its material from recycled sources."

Elliott feels that vinyl is harsh on the environment, so she used a kinder type of rubber for the shampoo room floor.

And the name Bamboo?

"Well, I bought this painting at a thrift store on Mission Street. I fell in love with it so much I named my salon after it." She also displays a couple of bamboo plants at the front of the shop.

In keeping with her eco-friendly ideal, Elliott visited Salvation Army on Valencia Street and bought four old wooden vanities to be used as styling stations.

The honey furniture and soft, bamboo-green walls, along with an elegant oversized chaise longue (Elliott found it at Harrington's Antiques on Valencia) and a picture-window view of the Diamond Corner Café, create a calm and inviting atmosphere for Elliott's clients.

She tries to make her customers feel comfortable in other ways as well.

"It's important to me that I understand my clients before I do anything," she says. "I take a long time talking with them. I ask them things like, 'How did your last haircut work out? And 'What kind of time are you able to spend on your hair every day?'"

The next step, shampoo, lasts about 10 minutes and includes a head massage. The whole process, from consultation through haircut through final blow-dry, takes about an hour and costs \$50.

A basic "shampoo-and-set" costs \$40, getting a semi-permanent hair color costs \$40 and up, and permanent color is \$60 and up. Elliott also will style an "up-do" for special occasions, at \$65 and up.

For clients who really like to be pampered, Bamboo Salon offers the services



Alicia Elliott (left) opened her new salon, Bamboo, with the help of aesthetician Carla Martino.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

of aesthetician and massage therapist Carla Martino. Martino joined Elliott several months ago and helped her open Bamboo.

"I just love this work," she says. "I get to know people and I get to be myself."

Martino does all her facial and body treatments in a private, well-heated room. Muted tangerine walls and vintage furniture (more finds from Salvation Army) create a comfy feel. Skin-care products Martino likes to use, such as a line of moisturizers and oils called Credentials, are on display on a large hutch. "People notice that the packaging isn't fancy, but it really works and you can afford it."

Martino has prior experience as an aesthetician and is also licensed to perform full body massage, including foot, hand, and back massage.

Clients can get a 40-minute "express" facial, which includes a double-cleansing, a light neck massage, and a facial mask (\$50). Or they can luxuriate in a 70-minute European facial, with deeper cleansing and a custom mask (\$80).

The full body massages, ranging from 45 to 90 minutes, start at \$60.

Martino also offers waxing treatments,

as well as eyebrow and lash tinting. A touch-up eyebrow waxing is \$10, and a bikini wax costs \$25.

Bamboo is open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## KITCHENSINC

1752 Church Street near Day  
415-550-7701

gcraddock@kitchensyncdesigns.com

Tucked into a tiny storefront on the outer reaches of Church Street is a shiny new kitchen—one that has never seen bacon grease. That's because this kitchen is actually a showroom, for the products that shop owner Gary Craddock sells.

Craddock says his new business, called KitchenSync, offers high-quality kitchen countertops and cabinets at reasonable prices. And if you like, he'll also throw in some remodeling design.

Until recently, Craddock worked as a manager for Surface Technology Corp., a local countertop and cabinet supplier for Home Depot. It was in that line of work, he says, that he began to notice a customer service problem.

"A lot of people who use Home Depot's services for kitchen remodeling, by the time they get to the countertop part of their remodel, are very frustrated with their experience."

Craddock lists several complaints, ranging from long installation delays to setbacks brought about by poor measuring. "It would start as a call about countertops. Then all of a sudden, I'd be playing therapist, while customers told me about their whole remodeling nightmare."

He decided he wanted to provide better service, and he claims he can do it for a better price than Home Depot. "I have much lower overhead," he laughs.

Though his shop is only 325 square feet, KitchenSync showcases a number of Craddock's favorite brands of countertops and cabinets, such as DuPont's Corian line and KraftMaid cabinetry.

The current trends in kitchen styles, he says, relate to color and texture.

"Cabinets styles themselves haven't changed that much, but what people like now is mixing the colors. For instance, a kitchen will have one cabinet stained indigo, another one charcoal, and another one spice."

Another big demand is for durable countertops.

"Granite is still very popular, but I recommend a brand called Zodiac, which is a combination of Corian and granite. It wears much better than granite, which stains easily and can be unforgiving when something gets dropped on it."

KitchenSync is located at Church and Day, in the spot where Pietro Fonda used to have his shoemaker business (Fonda recently moved across the street). As part of his own remodel, Craddock removed the false ceiling, fixed the floors, and painted the walls a shade of "muslin" by Ralph Lauren. Most of the wall space, though, is filled with sample cabinets and counters. He hopes the room is a welcome



Gary Craddock has a mélange of kitchen cabinet designs at his Church Street showroom called KitchenSync.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

place for Noe Valleyans to come in and talk about their kitchens. "Since I opened [in early February], I've gotten many customers who say they want to keep their business in the neighborhood."

Craddock knows several neighborhood contractors, such as Kevin Wallace of Wallace Remodeling (two blocks from KitchenSync at 400 Day Street), and he has begun talking with others in the business. "I provide the certified countertop fabrication, and I'm glad to connect customers with local professionals like Wallace, who can install the cabinets. That's where the 'sync' part comes in."

He is happy to offer his experience with kitchen design as well. "I visit your place, do a design with my 3-D software within a day or two, and work with you to get it how you like."

From there, he provides customers with a list of vendors and trade showrooms, so they can take a closer look at the products they've chosen.

Craddock says designers charge from \$700 to \$1,500 for this service, plus more for visits to the customer's home.

"My design consultation is free, including visits to the home."

Craddock's background includes architectural drafting, commercial lighting sales, and for the past 10 years, sales management and fabrication with Surface Technology, which operates throughout the Bay Area. His wife of 14 years, Takami Craddock, teaches dance for children at the Noe Valley Ministry.

Only a few weeks after opening, he has already started work with several Noe clients, and says it's going well. "People around here tend to have done a lot of remodeling work on their house already, and they know what they want."

Still, he's been working late each night on clients' designs.

"I'm not complaining at all. It's how it is with a new business!"

KitchenSync is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment.



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# Bay Area Street Hockey Calls Noe Valley Home

By Sharon Gillenwater

**M**att Zilinskas knows hockey. Having played professional hockey throughout Europe as well as on a Canadian national team, he has faced off against some of the world's most experienced and formidable players. But, he says, the most competitive hockey he has ever witnessed has been right here in Noe Valley.

"I've never seen anything like it," says Zilinskas when describing the Bay Area Street Hockey league, also known as BASH, which plays nearly every Sunday at James Lick Middle School. "I am amazed by the competitiveness of this league."

You have probably noticed them on the weekends, walking up 24th Street in their colorful jerseys, sweaty, bruised and rumpled, and wielding their well-worn hockey sticks with pride. Maybe you did a double take and wondered if there was a clandestine ice rink in the basement of Bell Market.

But BASH doesn't need ice to play hockey. Though the league is populated by a disproportionate number of Canadians and Massachusetts natives who are used to playing on ice, these hockey aficionados are more than happy to swap skates and a puck for a pair of Nikes and a plastic ball.

## BASH Biography

BASH was founded in 1991 by Noe Valley resident Mitchell Friedman, who played street hockey as a child on Long Island, N.Y. After moving to San Francisco, nostalgia for the game prompted him to place an ad in the newspaper calling for players. An overwhelming response led to Saturday morning pickup games. In the beginning, players would throw their sticks into a pile at center court, and Friedman would toss half of the sticks toward one goal and half toward the other. Each player followed his stick, and teams were formed.

Before long, a more formal league was established.

Friedman became the first commissioner, presiding over four teams: the Seals, the Flames, the Whales, and the Caenadians, named for famed San Francisco columnist Herb Caen. In the fall of 1991, the first season began, and the BASH moniker was adopted. In the years since, the league has expanded to six teams, of 15 players each. Just like in ice hockey, players score points by whacking the ball past their opponent's goalie into a net. But in this game, they're in sneakers, pounding on asphalt. Over a total of 11 seasons, more than 250 players have done battle at "The Lick."

## The Occasional Female Player

There are 90 active players in any given BASH season. Interestingly, each season typically sees at least one female



The Dubliner Rink Rats and the Redleaves, two teams in the fiercely competitive Bay Area Street Hockey league, face off on a recent Sunday in the lower yard at James Lick Middle School.  
Photo by Pamela Gerard

player in the league. In 2002-03, the lone woman was Tami Weiss, who conveniently lives right around the corner from James Lick at 24th and Castro. Weiss became involved with BASH after coming upon the playoffs during a walk through the neighborhood.

"I stopped to watch for what I thought would be five minutes," she recalls, "but the intensity and emotions were so amazing from both the players and the crowd that I stayed for the whole game."

After this chance encounter, Weiss joined the summer league and has been hooked ever since. She says she feels "a little outclassed by all these hockey superstars," but that doesn't mean she can't hold her own. Among her favorite BASH memories is scoring the winning goal for her team, the Roadrunners, in a game earlier this season.

While approximately half of the players live within the city limits, a surprising number commute from the East Bay, Silicon Valley, as far south as Salinas, and as far north as Sacramento. One dedicated regular flies in from Palm Springs when his schedule allows. Others have commuted by plane from Washington and New Jersey. This level of commitment illustrates the intense devotion that BASH inspires.

## "A Fraternity for Hockey Fanatics"

The players love to talk about why they are so passionate about the league. Henry Watts, a Noe Valley resident and captain of the Landsharks, chalks it up to the organization's unique structure.

"You're always playing against the same people, so there are some great rivalries," he says. "Also, BASH is the only sports league I have ever heard of where you can trade players, protect players from one year to the next, or give players who want to change teams 'free agent' status, meaning they go into the draft the following season and can be chosen by any team. So you can do things to try and improve your team every year, which also adds to the rivalries."

League commissioner Sandy Knapp says the real reason for BASH's loyal following is that the league remains governed by the players. Unlike a softball league that might be administered by Rec and Park, BASH is completely independent. Players fund the league through annual fees, and many people—players, ex-players, and fans among them—donate their time to help BASH run smoothly. Members are responsible for

refereeing games for other teams, transporting all boards and equipment to James Lick, and for cleaning up the playground after the games.

"BASH really is a community," says Knapp. Like most modern-day communities, the league maintains a robust online presence where players can register, check the game schedule, and view standings and stats. A very active league message board fosters 24/7 communication and enables members who have moved away to talk about BASH and the world of hockey with their former cohorts. "We have players check in from other parts of the U.S., Canada, Europe, and believe it or not, Africa," says Knapp.

"It's a fraternity for hockey fanatics," says Zilinskas, "and it's not about just what goes on inside the ring. Lasting friendships are formed."

In addition to hanging out before and after the games, league members enjoy each other's company at a variety of social events. Each year, the league organizes a popular All-Star Game and a year-end awards ceremony. And though the official BASH season concludes in early April with the championship playoffs, there will be pickup games to bridge the gap until the more informal summer league starts in June.

## The Graying of BASH

The age range of BASH players spans an astounding three decades. In recent years, there have been players as young as 17 and as old as 47. In 1991, when the league was founded, the average age was somewhere in the mid-20s. More than a decade later, the average player is estimated to be around 34. Many players have married and had children during the course of their tenure, as evidenced by the weekly congregation of wives and toddlers swinging miniature hockey sticks.

Ex-pro Zilinskas, who is not exactly a youngster himself at 32, says the age factor might have something to do with the league's competitive nature. "They're a bunch of guys going through midlife crisis who want to show they can still compete," he cracks. "The youngest guy on my team is 29, and there must be five guys over 40. It's a great way for older fans to stay in shape and enjoy the game."

## More Polite Than the NHL

George Sacca, owner of Angel's Market at 26th and Castro, is one of BASH's biggest fans. When he bought Angel's

eight years ago, he immediately noticed a steady influx of jersey-clad jocks looking to fortify themselves with Gatorade, or needing a bag of ice to soothe an injury.

"They're a great bunch of guys," he says. "Many of them are professionals—doctors, attorneys, financiers—they set a good example for the kids at the school and give business to the neighborhood, too."

Sacca says that when the players meet neighborhood kids in his store, they invite and encourage them to come check out the games. "They should have more interaction with the kids from James Lick," he says. "The kids could get a lot out of watching the games and talking to the guys."

Good sportsmanship and self-discipline are not only encouraged in BASH, they are institutionalized by league rules that are strictly enforced. While the action inside the rink is often intense, players must maintain their cool after the whistle blows. As in major-league sports, players shake hands with their opponents at the conclusion of every game. But unlike in the NHL, fighting is not part of the program. A first offense results in a one-game suspension, and a second merits expulsion from the league. Littering is also forbidden. In fact, players try to leave the playground cleaner than they found it.

## Home Sweet Noe

Until this season, BASH has always played on Saturdays. But with City College using the Lick campus every Saturday, the league recently was faced with finding a new home. After an exhaustive search, BASH decided to change game day to Sunday rather than relocate out of Noe Valley. Their games usually kick off at 9, 11, and 1 o'clock, in the playground on the Clipper Street side of the school.

"We love playing at James Lick," says Commissioner Knapp, "and believe the shape of the playing and viewing area help to provide the unique BASH experience. We are very appreciative of the James Lick School and its principal for allowing us to play here, and we make great efforts to take care of the yard, in addition to being good citizens of the Noe Valley community." ☐

*BASH championship games are scheduled to take place Saturday, April 5, and Sunday, April 6. For final schedules and additional information about BASH, visit [www.3rdbase.com/bash/jw](http://www.3rdbase.com/bash/jw).*

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# Michael Castleman Treasures His First Novel: *The Lost Gold of San Francisco*

By Betsy Bannerman

After more than 30 years as a medical journalist, health crusader, and sex guru, Noe Valley resident Michael Castleman is embarking on a new adventure. In early April, he will publish his first novel, a mystery called *The Lost Gold of San Francisco* (21st-Century Publishing: \$24.95). Castleman will be signing the book this month at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore on 24th Street and at several other literary venues around the Bay Area. And he is thrilled.

"It's the most fun I've had as a writer," says the best-selling author of a dozen books and more than a thousand health care articles. "In medical writing, you spend all your time explaining things. With fiction, you get to create a whole new world. Writing this book was like a sabbatical for me professionally."

*The Lost Gold of San Francisco* is an action-packed tale full of local color, true-to-life characters, and historical detail, spanning the 83 years between the devastating 1906 earthquake and the "pretty big" one that jolted the World Series in 1989. The "lost gold" refers to a (fictional) shipment of \$20 gold pieces, which disappeared from the San Francisco Mint in the days following the Great Quake. But the murders take place in contemporary San Francisco—well, almost contemporary: the pre-dot-com days of the late '80s. Castleman's protagonist is a hard-nosed reporter, working for a daily newspaper much like the *ChronEx*. (See excerpt from the novel, starting at right.)

Like his main character, Castleman has done his share of investigative reporting. In fact, he won an award for his *Mother Jones* series on "Toxic Breasts," exploring the chemical links to breast cancer.

But writing of all sorts has been in the cards since childhood. The son of a college professor and a librarian who adored fiction, the New York-born Castleman says he knew from the age of 12 he wanted to be a novelist. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa in English from the University of Michigan, he became an administrator at a free health clinic in Ann Arbor.

"It was very apparent that many people coming in to the clinic could have avoided their medical problems if they'd just had a little more information," he remembers.

He started writing a health column in the local underground newspaper, which was soon syndicated. By the time he moved to California in 1975, "people had actually read my stuff. The *Berkeley Barb* said, 'Oh, yeah, we know you!'"

Over the next two decades, Castleman racked up a string of journalistic successes. He wrote 10 consumer health books, including *Sexual Solutions: For Men and the Women Who Love Them* (1980), *Nature's Cures: 33 Natural Therapies to Improve Your Health and Well-Being* (1996), and *There's Still a Person in There: The Complete Guide to Preventing, Treating, and Coping with Alzheimer's Disease* (2000). He also took over editorship of the health magazine *Medical Self-Care*.

Along the way, he continued freelancing for a wide spectrum of magazines—from *Playboy* and *Men's Health* to *Redbook* and *The Ladies' Home Journal*.



Best-selling author Michael Castleman is branching out with *The Lost Gold of San Francisco*, a murder mystery whose main character is a police reporter for the *Foghorn* (a fictional hybrid of the *Chronicle* and the old *Hearst Examiner*)  
Photo by Pamela Gerard

"[Health writing] has given me a good living," he says. "It serves a social purpose, and I enjoy it."

But through it all, the fiction bug was still biting. He started two novels but discarded them ("A novel is defined as an extended piece of prose, with several things wrong with it," he chuckles).

Then in 1987, he saw a blurb in Herb Caen's column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, about an Hispanic laborer who found a rare gold coin while digging the foundation for a downtown highrise. Castleman had been a coin collector as a kid, and he is also a San Francisco history buff. He was intrigued. He wrote a 250-page first draft of the "Lost Gold" story, but then, "life intruded." He kept tinkering with the plot and characters, though,

and as a 50th birthday present to himself, decided to tackle the tale again.

"I pulled out my file of notes, and of course had no idea what half of them meant. But by then the story had been rattling around in my head for 12 years."

Two years later, he had a book. Castleman says he was best at plotting the action—"It's a book of verbs more than adjectives or nouns"—and that he worked hard to make his characters three-dimensional. He did lots of research: he owns all five books that have been published on the '06 earthquake. And he read the *Chronicle* and the old *Examiner* on microfilm to get a deeper sense of what life was like during 1989—the movies, restaurants, songs on the radio, and day-to-day baseball statistics.

## Excerpts from *Lost Gold*

Here are a few nuggets from *The Lost Gold of San Francisco*, by Noe Valley writer Michael Castleman (©2003, 21st-Century Publishing).

**Background:** It's April 18, 1906, the day of the Big One. In the chaos of the earthquake and fire, the San Francisco Mint loses \$130,000 in \$20 gold pieces, each containing a telltale error. Instead of the usual "S" mint mark, the coins have a double mark, "SS." In the ensuing years, only two are ever found. The rest become the "lost gold" of San Francisco.

Fast-forward to 1989: Chester Worthington Gilchrist III, billionaire publisher of San Francisco's leading newspaper, the *Foghorn*, donates his priceless coin collection to the California Museum. It contains one of the two known "SS" gold pieces. Reporter Ed Rosenberg is sent to cover the story. Then the museum director turns up murdered.

While chasing the bigger story, Ed learns that Tim Huang is also covering it. Years earlier, they'd both studied karate at the same dojo. Tim has just landed a job at San Francisco's alternative weekly, the *Defender*. Ed started out there, too, but got fired by the paper's brilliant but irascible owner, Jocko McKenzie. Ed warns Tim not to tell Jocko about their friendship.

□□□□□□

"Too late," Tim explained as Ed maneuvered his beat-up Mustang through the midmorning traffic up Ninth Street. "Jocko knows."

The 'Stang had started out fire-engine red, but a decade of San Francisco sun, rain, and salty fog had turned it odious orange. Then a tourist plowed into the car's right side, necessitating replacement of the door. Ed didn't have collision, so his mechanic scrounged a door from a junkyard near Candlestick. Only it was green. On Dolores Terrace, the alley where Ed lived near Mission Dolores, the neighbors called the car "Behind the Green Door," after the porno film by the city's bad-boy filmmakers, the Mitchell Brothers.

Ed turned down the radio to merely loud as KFOG played the Traveling Wilburys' "End of the Line."

"Did Jocko throw anything?" Ed zipped through Civic Center. Homeless men in filthy coats lounged on the plaza grass. Ed ran up Leavenworth past the hulking Main Library and into Little Saigon, where

"Writing is difficult," says this writer of at least one book that sold over a million copies (*The Healing Herbs: Complete Guide to Nature's Medicines*, 1991). "Good writing is clear, elegant, and insightful. That's tough."

One thing that he says helped him in writing *Lost Gold* was the structure. It opens with a novella, jumps ahead to a novel, and ends with a short story. "When I got frustrated with one form," he says, "I could refocus on another section and still feel like I was making progress."

He had only one "dark night of the soul," when he got stuck and actually quit writing for a few weeks. But during a long hike up to Douglass Playground, he suddenly realized, "Oh, this is the problem. I can fix it this way." He did many rewrites after that, but met no more roadblocks. He even came up with a "surprise" ending.

"What I like about mysteries is that they are morality plays," he says. "They open with something out of joint with the world, and by the end, things are set right and the world is more comprehensible."

When not writing, Castleman finds pleasure in daily life. He does yoga several times a week, figure-skates at Yerba Buena Ice Rink, and takes ski trips with his family—doctor wife Anne, and kids Jeff and Maya.

He loves living in Noe Valley (seven years on Elizabeth, 15 on Alvarado). He likes the weather, the Noe Valley Music Series, and the "villageness" of the neighborhood. "You have all the advantages of a big city right out your front door, but at the same time there's a small-town feeling."

One of his book's characters lives on the 22nd Street hill, and several others live nearby.

Castleman has some ideas for a next novel, and is also in the midst of finishing another medical book. Mostly, though, he is enjoying shepherding his "dream come true" into print.

"I love getting up in the morning and knowing I'm a novelist and going to bed at night and I'm still a novelist. It's great!"

□

Michael Castleman will sign copies of *The Lost Gold of San Francisco* on Saturday, April 5, 2 p.m., at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th Street near Diamond. His other dates include April 7, 7:30 p.m., at M is for Mystery in San Mateo; April 27, 5 p.m., at Book Passage in Corte Madera; and May 20, 7 p.m., at Barnes and Noble in Berkeley.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## Nuggets from *The Lost Gold of San Francisco*

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Vietnamese restaurants and markets were crowding out the previous wave of Chinese immigrants and the old-time poor, black and white, who had inhabited the area's cheap hotels since the 1950s.

Tim laughed. Ed headed out Geary for the crosstown trek to Seacliff, where some of San Francisco's priciest real estate perched on the rocky bluffs just west of the Golden Gate Bridge.

It was a glorious day, sunny, clear, and bracing, the kind of day Easterners love in January and hate in July, the kind San Franciscans call "normal." They passed Japantown, whose creation had wrenched the heart out of the Fillmore, until the late 1950s the city's main black neighborhood. The old jazz clubs were long gone now, supplanted by more stately places like the Chinese consulate and the Miyako Hotel, where rock bands liked to stay because of the sunken tubs in the bathrooms.

"Melissa says hi," Tim said.

The *Defender's* masthead listed Melissa Rubin as Publisher's Assistant, but actually, she ran the paper. Jocko assigned the stories, wrote the editorials, and made sure that coverage always glorified the city's neighborhoods and vilified

City Hall and the downtown corporations, especially PG&E. But Melissa did everything else, including occasionally restraining Jocko from slugging the politicians who trooped in around election time looking for endorsements. Without her, the paper would have collapsed under the weight of its owner's insufferability—and even Jocko knew it.

"Tell her hi back."

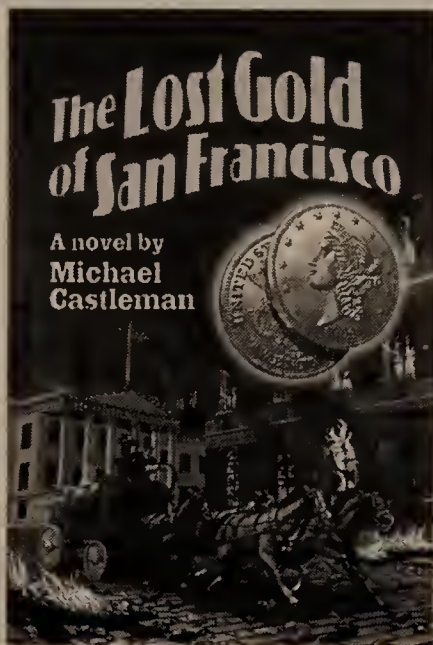
They cruised past the Fillmore Auditorium, a tomb in midmorning. The marquee proclaimed, *Tonight: Fine Young Cannibals*. Ed liked them. He might have caught the show, but ever since he'd turned 30, he couldn't deal with weeknight concerts whose headliner came on at midnight.

"Why'd Jocko fire you?"

"Long story."

They fell silent as they passed Kaiser and shot through the tunnel. *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* was at the Bridge. Farther west, the Coronet had *The Abyss*. West of Arguello, the businesses became more polyglot, with signage in Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Korean, and Russian. KFOG played Springsteen's "Born to Run."

Ed's firing was actually a short story. The reason was insubordination, his refusal to attend the weekly taste tests, one of the *Defender's* most popular features. Every week, it was something else: burgers, burritos, cappuccino, whatever. Readers nominated their favorites, then the staff sampled and voted. Winners were awarded "Best of San Francisco" certificates, which they displayed prominently. At first, Ed dutifully showed up every Tuesday afternoon. It was



"NOE VALLEY" is a misnomer. The neighborhood is actually a hilly plateau carved out of the broad shoulders of Twin Peaks and Diamond Heights, supported by the strong back of the Mission. Along 24th, the commercial heart of the neighborhood, Noe Valley slides gently down to the Mission. Elsewhere, the border between the two neighborhoods is marked by 200-foot bluffs. The steepest section is 22nd Street between Church and Vicksburg, where the sidewalk is a concrete staircase and the street is one-way, down. The drive is a black diamond ski run. Years ago, at the upper lip of the precipice, the Department of Public Works erected a sign with the understated warning: *HILL*. Soon after, a graffiti artist crossed it out and spray-painted: *CLIFF*.

From *The Lost Gold of San Francisco* by Michael Castleman, ©2003 by 21st-Century Publishing, Henderson, Nevada

fun being in the know, conferring "Best of" awards. But the process became tedious and then oppressive. He stopped caring about who made the best falafel, and the arguments for or against some contestant began sounding pathetic. He realized why Jocko was always uncharacteristically quiet at the weekly ritual. Taste tests were one of the silly ingredients he had to stir into the mix to keep enough people reading his paper so that advertisers would keep it afloat. Ed began ducking taste tests. Eventually, Jocko cornered him and demanded to know why.

"Watching my weight," Ed lied.

Jocko replied that weight control shouldn't be a problem without an income, then fired him just as Melissa was setting up a dozen steaming plates of Pad Thai for the weekly go-round.

Three days later, the *Foghorn's* night police reporter dropped dead of a heart attack. Ed knew some reporters on the *Horn* and got the job.

Jocko didn't speak to Ed for a year. Then, one Sunday afternoon, with the 49ers in the playoffs, Ed answered his doorbell to find a smiling Jocko holding a six-pack of Anchor Steam and Chinese in boxes.

Ed wondered how long Tim would last in Jockoland. He also wondered if his former employer knew that Tim could easily break his neck with one well-placed side kick.

THEY CROSSED THE ESPLANADE that framed Park Presidio Boulevard. The temperature dropped 10 degrees, and the ocean breeze grew stiff and salty. At the gilded minarets of the Russian Orthodox Church, Ed turned right toward Seacliff.

"You must have made black belt years ago," Ed ventured, trying not to sound too impressed.

"Yeah," Tim replied modestly. "Remember what Master Chen always said?"

"A black belt is a beginner."

Tim smiled. "You remember."

"How is he?" Ed's voice softened, and carried wisps of longing and remorse.

"Good. Healthy. He's 67 now. He's stopped teaching students below brown, but he still coaches the advanced group."

The boxy, three-flat, bay-windowed places pressed together shoulder to shoulder gave way to single-family homes, then larger ones. Across Camino del Mar, past stone pillars chiseled with *SEACLIFF*, they entered a world of enormous mansions and dramatic landscaping. Off to the right and very close, the Golden Gate Bridge was framed against an azure sky and cobalt water dotted with whitecaps. Sailboats frolicked in the breeze, and a huge Suzuki container ship chugged out to sea.

"He misses you," Tim said.

"I miss him, too," Ed admitted wistfully. "Tell him, would you?"

"Tell him yourself," Tim replied, with an edge of bitterness.

"I will." But Ed knew he wouldn't. He felt guilty about it. Master Chen had always been good to him, a mentor. But Ed's study of karate coincided with his years in graduate school. Afterward, it was hard to get to the dojo. He kept meaning to stop by, but never quite made it.

"Why didn't you go on after—what was it?—brown belt?" Tim asked.

"Green. I don't know. My life changed. And I realized I was there for the wrong reason."

"What reason?"

"To learn how to fight."

"Ah, yes," Tim reflected, "every time some new kung fu movie comes out, we get an influx of new students dying to learn flying spin kicks. Master Chen tells them: 'Karate is not about fighting—'"

Ed completed his old teacher's saying: "'—karate is about serenity.'"

They looked at each other and smiled. Tim said, "It's funny. When I was coming up, I never understood what he meant by that. Now that I'm teaching, I'm beginning to get it."

Ed turned into Seacliff Court, the classiest address in the neighborhood. Two police cars were in the driveway of a sprawling four-story Spanish hacienda with a tile roof and enough beveled glass to make Ed reach for his sunglasses. An ambulance was parked at the curb, flanked by TV vans with dishes pointed skyward. Ed pulled up at a rarity for San Francisco, a big open stretch of curb, and the two reporters sauntered up the brick walk as paramedics eased out the front door wheeling a gurney topped by a black body bag.

"Maybe that's why I quit," Ed mused. "I'm incapable of serenity." □

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# SHORT TAKES

## Of Parks and Projects

The residents' group Friends of Noe Valley will tackle two hot topics this month, at two separate meetings at the Noe Valley Library.

The first meeting, co-sponsored by the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, will take place on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m., and will bring the neighborhood up to date on a development proposed for 3953 24th Street, across from Bell Market. Lou Blaszes, who is representing the project's investors, will discuss details of the plan, which calls for razing an unoccupied, one-story residence and replacing it with a four-story building that would have four condominiums, two businesses, and an underground garage. (A feature about the project appeared in the *Voice's* February 2003 issue.)

"We'd like to ask everybody to attend because, since the project is on 24th Street, which is our shopping and walking street, it's important to take an interest in good planning on this site," says Jeannene Przyblyski, president of Friends of Noe Valley.

The second meeting, slated for Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m., is the Friends' general meeting. Special guest will be Elizabeth Goldstein, general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Goldstein will share plans for capital improvements to Noe Valley's three parks, as well as talk about how city budget cuts might affect Rec and Park's programs and services.

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library is at 451 Jersey Street. For more information, call 282-4334.

## San Francisco History Hunt

To commemorate 25 years of giving free history and architecture walking tours throughout the city, the San Francisco City Guides will hold a "Great City Guides History Hunt" on Sunday, April 27. The event, which is also a benefit for the volunteer guides group, should satisfy history buffs, people who love puzzles and riddles, and those who just want to support a worthy cause.

The atrium of the One Market building at the foot of Market Street will be hunt headquarters for the afternoon (enter on Mission Street), and you can sign up starting at 12:30 p.m. Participants will be organized into teams to comb the hunting grounds, which will stretch from South of Market to Union Square, and Jackson Square to the Ferry Building.

Each team will depart at 1 p.m., armed with a map, a list of about 15 clues, and an answer sheet. Some clues will have obvious answers; others will require collaboration and brainstorming. Many will evoke characters from San Francisco's past and lead participants to hidden views and historical sites. Hunters will reunite at headquarters at 5 p.m., at which time prizes for the top teams will be awarded.

San Francisco City Guides offers more than 25 different walking tours, at a pace of about 100 walks each month throughout the year.

Hunting license per participant is \$25. Advance registration is requested. For more information, call 557-4266 or go to City Guides' home on the web: [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

## Totally Teen Talent

Six young artists, four from Noe Valley and two from the Mission, will be hanging their artwork on Friday, April 18, in Gallery Sanchez. Their show, titled "Teen Talent in the Hood," will run through the end of May.

The show's opening reception will be Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. The artists include Miles Ake of Gateway High School, Clay Cardozo of Lick-Wilmerding High School, Jeff Castleman from School of the Arts, Amos Goldbaum of Urban School of San Francisco, David Levine from Lowell High School, and Annie Terpstra of Drew School.

"Gallery Sanchez is very supportive of artists of every stripe, and I am thrilled to present these talented teens to the public," says Betsy Bannerman, the show's curator. "The show will be individualistic, expressive, surprising, and amazing."

Works of art available for purchase will have prices and artist phone numbers posted beside them. Gallery Sanchez is on the second floor of the Noe Valley Ministry, located at Sanchez and 23rd streets.

## Flowers, Birds, and Butterflies

Get your fill of nature on Saturdays and Sundays this month by taking advantage of free events in nearby parks sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

A perennially popular Glen Canyon Park wildflower walk will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 12.

"We'll probably have two groups, one led by Richard Craib, president of Friends of Glen Canyon. The other will be led by myself," says Jean Conner, vice president of the organization. "Richard will take one group on a hike up into the hillsides, and I will take a group along level areas for people who aren't ready for a strenuous walk. Lupines should be in bloom, and there will be poppies, columbine, buttercups, yarrow, and probably blue dicks."

Also in Glen Canyon Park will be a bird walk led by David Armstrong on Sunday, April 13, beginning at 9 a.m. "We'll have some extra pairs of binoculars, but people should bring binoculars if they have them," notes Conner.

Participants for both Glen Canyon walks should meet by the picnic tables behind the recreation center off Elk Street. For more details, call 584-8576.

Another wildflower walk will take place on Bayview Hill on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This hill-top park supports more than 140 native plant species. Walkers should hook up with leaders Margo Bors and Jon Campo at the park gate at Key Avenue (off Third Street). Call 824-0471 or e-mail [mbors@attbi.com](mailto:mbors@attbi.com) for more information.

Corona Heights Park will be the site of a wildflower and insect walk earlier that morning (April 26), from 9 to 10 a.m. Walk leader Thomas Wang will meet participants at the front of the Randall Museum at 199 Museum Way (off 14th Street and Roosevelt Way). For information, phone 621-3260 or e-mail [jstemmler@sfnighborhoodparks.org](mailto:jstemmler@sfnighborhoodparks.org).

For a final dose of natural wonder, you can learn how to attract butterflies to your own garden in a workshop at Precita Park on Sunday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Participants will have a chance to learn what types of butterflies are most likely to come to their gardens, plus the plants and conditions needed to get them there. Advance sign-up is recommended. Call 753-7274 to register.

## Party with the Gay Freedom Band

They practiced their first whistle commands on a disco dance floor. They marched for the first time in front of former San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk's convertible. They were the first openly gay band in the U.S.

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## SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

ing between gay and non-gay communities, the band performs not only in the street for throngs of thousands, but also in concert at schools, parks, and special events throughout the Bay Area.

The music will begin at 7 p.m. in the Everett Middle School Auditorium, 450 Church Street, at 16th Street. In addition to cutting-edge modern band music, entertainment will include a performance by band alumni, documentary footage, sing-alongs, a Hawaii vacation raffle, and special guests including Trauma Flintstone.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and seniors. Forty dollars will get you into a gala VIP reception at Bethany Gardens, as well as into the show itself. For more information, call 255-1355. Group rates are available.

### Annual Glen Park Festival

On Sunday, April 27, you can enjoy yourself in the balmy breezes of Glen Park while supporting local activities for children. How, you may wonder? Just attend the seventh annual Glen Park Festival, running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center of the action will be on Diamond Street between Chenery and Bosworth.

Admission to the festival is free, but proceeds from any arts and crafts you buy will go toward scholarships for Silver Tree Day Camp (held in Glen Canyon Park each summer) and for children's programs at the Glen Park Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Highlights will include more than 40 booths staffed by local artists and craftspeople. Also well represented will be vendors of food and beverage, including Chenery Park Restaurant and several restaurants from Noe Valley. Music will start off in the morning with the Gaeto Quartet. Later you'll hear the Latin sounds of Mestizo. The day's entertainment will end with Pamela Rose Blues.

For more information, call 835-2112 or visit [www.glenparkfestival.com](http://www.glenparkfestival.com).

*This month's Short Takes were written by Laura McHale Holland.*



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# FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated  
Reminiscences  
By Florence Holub

## The Blonde Wig

*In this essay reprinted from the April 1991 Voice, Florence Holub pondered the question: Does she or doesn't she? Or rather, should she or shouldn't she?*

Do blondes have more fun? In our house, the answer to that question has always been yes, although not for the reasons one might think. My story begins on a spring day in the 1950s when I went downtown to buy Easter goodies for our three young sons. Loaded with packages, I ended up at the Emporium Department Store, where I joined a crowd of ladies clustered around a salesgirl who was giving a stimulating pitch for a new item on the market: the wig. (At that time, wigs had not yet been marketed for the general public, and were rarely worn by anyone outside the theatrical profession.)

The sales clerk was holding up a curly platinum blonde wig as she scanned the group of attentive women, searching for a likely person to model it. Since I was bareheaded and standing in front, she had only to lean over the counter to slip the creation onto my head. Usually I possess a healthy sales resistance, but in this case I also harbored the regret of having lost the blonde of my youth to the brown of ma-

turity. The other ladies were egging me on, laughing and saying things like, "It's you," "Just like a movie star," and "You should buy it."

I bought it all right, paying the lady \$5 (the equivalent of \$50 in 1991). To save time, and because I was already loaded with packages, I wore it home.

In the J-Church streetcar, some of the passengers gave me funny side glances, and I overheard the young man seated in front of me say to the young lady beside him (as his right shoulder jerked in my direction), "Did you know that my sister bleached her hair?" She looked at him in puzzlement, so he repeated his words several times, then said, "Oh, forget it!" It was only as I left the streetcar that I saw him resuming the conversation as they both stared at my unnaturally blonde tresses.

Walking up the 21st Street hill, I had to pass one of my neighbors, a very proper lady, who was watering her flowers. She stopped, stared at my hair for a minute, and then declared, "What will your husband say?!"

That question had entered my mind, for although my husband is a patient man, our budget at the time had been

stretched to the limit with monthly dental bills for two of our sons who needed corrective bands on their teeth.

I got my answer as soon as Leo greeted me at the front door: his eyes and mouth

flew open in astonishment, and then he doubled over in laughter, while I attempted to explain my frivolous expenditure. When he stopped laughing long enough to respond, he told me it was well worth the price, just for the laughs! After a good look in the mirror, it was



clear to me that the only movie star I resembled was Harpo Marx. I put the silly thing up on the closet shelf and never wore it again. But someone else did.

It was just a few months later that my father came to our house one evening because his sister Maria (who kept house for him since he had been widowed) was having a "hen party," as he called it. This was a gathering of women, mainly widows and "spinsters," who got together at each other's houses for coffee, Scandinavian pastries, and conversation in their native Swedish language. My father had been banished for the evening. So, feeling a little left out, he decided it would be great fun to "crash" the party, disguised as one of their gender.

Soon we had him dressed up and easily passing for a lady. Decked out in a Tupperware-bowl bosom, some of my clothes and shoes, a matching purse, and the crowning blonde wig, he looked just like my Aunt Maria. The next day, in fact, our neighbor Janet Pera on 21st

Street said, "I saw your aunt drive off in the truck yesterday, and I must say that she handled that vehicle just like a man!"

Back at my father's house, the party had been proceeding pleasantly when Aunt Maria had to answer the doorbell to admit a strange yet disturbingly familiar person who announced in a squeaking falsetto, "I am a relative of Maria Kronholm from the old country," and then circled the room repeating his message. As he hugged each lady, they burst out with laughter, recognizing the man they knew so well. A stunned Aunt Maria was the last to penetrate his disguise. And she later told me, "I knew she was some kind of funny lady, but I didn't know what kind of a funny lady." Then she happily confessed that this party was the liveliest affair the ladies had ever been treated to.

The wig again sat in the closet for a few years until Bonnie, a married school chum of mine, came to San Francisco on family business, spending evenings with us in our Noe Valley home. During the days, she was so occupied with chores that she failed to have her hair done properly for her return home. So down from the closet came an offering: the blonde wig. We laughed as she tried on the silly substitute and imagined her family's reaction. But best of all, her ticket reservation was for the first of April.

When she got off the plane in Seattle, her waiting husband and children were struck speechless to find their dear little mother so changed after her trip to San Francisco. My friend returned the wig in a week, saying that her family had been greatly relieved to find that it came off.

The blonde wig hasn't seen active duty for several years now. But it still has a place on my closet shelf, for who knows when I might need it again? □



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# APRIL 2003



**MARCH 29:** The JAMESTOWN JAM 2003 features funk and disco revue Divalicious and deejay Asti Spumanti to benefit the Jamestown Community Center. 9 pm – 2 am. Broadway Studios, 435 Broadway. 647-4709.

**MARCH 30:** The third annual CESAR E. CHAVEZ PARADE and festival features Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers. Parade begins Market and Second Street at 11 am and proceeds to Civic Center; festival 1–5 pm. 440-8502.

**APRIL 1, 8 & 22:** Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**APRIL 1–30:** LIVING T'AI CHI of Noe Valley offers classes in meditation and Qigong, taught by Chris Sequeira. Mon. and Tues., 6–7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am–noon, at Douglass Park, 27th and Douglass. 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

**APRIL 1–MAY 18:** Birds Nest Arts presents "Flower Power," an exhibit of OIL PAINTINGS by Melissa Yarbrough. Reception Thursday, April 24, 6–9 pm. Castro Computer Gallery Space, 1320 Castro St. 577-8195.

**APRIL 2:** *Of Spirits and Healing* by Dr. Paul Linde is the focus of a BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP at the Noe Valley Ministry, 6:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**APRIL 2:** The Friends of Noe Valley and the East & West of Castro Club co-sponsor a discussion about the proposed DEVELOPMENT at 3953 24th St. 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 282-4334.

**APRIL 2:** Max Dashu gives a SLIDE-SHOW, "Goddess Cosmologies," examining the global mother essence and divine law. 7–9 pm. Scarlet Sage Herb Company, 1173 Valencia St. 821-0997.

**APRIL 3:** Check out the 22nd annual Bay Area BOOK REVIEWER AWARDS, co-sponsored by *Poetry Flash*. 5–8 pm. Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room and Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 989-1616.

**APRIL 3 & 10:** The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) needs help at the San Francisco FOOD BANK from 10 am–noon. 731-3335.

**APRIL 5:** Friends of Dolores Park hosts a WORK PARTY to clean and beautify the grounds. 9 am–noon. 753-7265.

**APRIL 5:** The Greenbelt Alliance sponsors a HIKING TOUR of the "seven green islands" in the city: Corona Heights, Tank Hill, Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, Glen Canyon, and McLaren Park. 9:30 am–5 pm. 255-3233.

**APRIL 5:** Noe Valley author Michael Castleman signs copies of his first MYSTERY, *The Last Gold of San Francisco*. Denise Osborne, author of three mysteries, will discuss her latest, *Designed to Kill*. 2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 5:** The Manring Kasson Darter trio performs a CONCERT at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 5 & 26:** LAPSITS for babies, toddlers, and their parents feature songs, stories, and finger plays. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



The Joe Goode Performance Group celebrates National Dance Week at the Marsh on April 29.  
Photo by R.J. Muna

**APRIL 6:** A SLING CLASS at Natural Resources offers tips on baby carriers. 12:30–2 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

**APRIL 6:** Swami Vidyananda leads a workshop in STRESS MANAGEMENT techniques. 1–5 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

**APRIL 6:** James Lick's SILENT AUC-TION benefits the middle school's arts program and student trips. 5–7:30 pm. SomArts, 934 Brannan St. 282-6568.

**APRIL 6:** CHARLIE VARON performs "Oh My G-d, Jewish Humor for Troubled Times," a benefit for Or Shalom. 7 pm. Brava Theater Center, 24th & York. 242-9992.

**APRIL 6:** The Apple Hill Chamber Players performs classical music in a "PLAYING FOR PEACE" tour. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**APRIL 7:** Meet DENISE HAMILTON, author of *The Jasmine Trade* and *Sugar Skull*, mysteries set in Southern California. 4 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 7:** ODD MONDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry features a discussion with Phoebe McAfee, weaver and director of Gallery Sanchez, and writer Richard Van Kooy. 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**APRIL 7, 14, 21 & 28:** A four-part basic SAT WORKSHOP can help students who scored lower than 1150 on the test. 6–9 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. Preregister at 355-2800.

**APRIL 8:** The New College of California School of Law offers a workshop, "How to Present a Case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT." 6 pm. 50 Fell St., 2nd floor. 241-1300.

**APRIL 10:** Elizabeth Goldstein, manager of the city's Recreation and Park Department, discusses plans for neighborhood PARK improvements at the Friends of Noe Valley general meeting. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 282-4334.

**APRIL 10:** A SUN SALUTATION workshop at Integral Yoga Institute runs from 7:30 to 9 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

**APRIL 11:** Michael Connelly unveils his newest Harry Bosch MYSTERY, *Last Night*. 1–3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 12:** The Gay and Lesbian Sier-rans do HABITAT RESTORATION at Fort Baker. Meet 9:15 am at the parking lot between the parade grounds and the Discovery Museum; bring rugged gear, water, and lunch. 586-4114.

**APRIL 12:** The Library holds a book-signing and publication party for the photographic record of *INSCRIPTIONS at the Old Public Library of San Francisco*. 1 to 3 pm. Main Library, Skylight Gallery, 100 Larkin St. 989-1616.

**APRIL 12:** Portola Valley author JOHN BILLHEIMER will sign copies of *Drybone Hollow*. 2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 12:** Soprano Greta Larson and pianist Stephen Damonte perform a CLASSICAL CONCERT with guest artists J.D. Hagen on flute and soprano Maria West. 8 pm. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

**APRIL 12:** The ANTONIO CALOGERO Group performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 12 & 13:** Members of Friends of Glen Canyon Park lead a Saturday wildflower walk and a Sunday BIRD WALK. Meet at 10 am at the Glen Park Rec Center, Elk and Chenery. 584-8576.

**APRIL 13:** Ray Kesler, librarian for PFLAG San Francisco, celebrates his 80th birthday with stories of his life. 2–4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

**APRIL 13:** Bird and Beckett hosts a CAFE BABAR Poetry Scene Reunion at 3 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**APRIL 13:** The Del Sol Quartet performs with pianist Eva Maria Zimmerman at Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

**APRIL 13:** Tenor Colby Roberts performs a concert of SACRED MUSIC by Britten, Vaughan Williams, Purcell, Ives,



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# CALENDAR



and Copland. 5 pm. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

**APRIL 15:** The Gray Panthers hosts a discussion of Muni fare increases and instant runoff voting, with union activist/Muni bus driver Ellen Murray and political activist Eileen Hanson. 12:30–3 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin St. 552-8800.

**APRIL 15:** Meet JULIA SPENCER-FLEMING, author of the award-winning *In the Bleak Midwinter*. (Her newest book is *A Fountain Filled with Blood*.) 5 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 15:** The Ingleside Station hosts a POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING for residents of the area south of Cesar Chavez. 7 pm. 630 Valencia St. 1 Sgt. John Young Lane. 404-4000.

**APRIL 15:** A KNITTING BEE with the Shizknits teaches basic skills on a hat pattern. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**APRIL 17:** Congregation Sha'ar Zahav celebrates a community PASSOVER SEDER. 6:30 pm. Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness Ave. Reservations required: call 861-6932.

**APRIL 18–MAY 31:** The reception for an exhibit of local TEEN ARTWORK called "Teen Talent in the Hood" will be held April 27, 2–4 pm. Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**APRIL 19:** The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) offers a workshop to create MUSHROOM GARDENS. 1–4 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton. Preregister at 255-4493.

**APRIL 19:** Noe Valley author CARA BLACK will sign copies of her latest Aimée Leduc novel, *Murder in the Bastille*. 2–4 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 20:** ALAN GORDON, author of the historical Jester series, will be on hand to sign his new release, *Widow of Jerusalem*. 2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 21:** Orli Bein and Nora Khouri, members of the PALESTINE/JEWISH Living Room Dialogue Group, are guests of the Odd Mondays program at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**APRIL 21:** Jim Nisbet, author of the neo-noir *Price of a Ticket*, and legendary Dutch author Janwillem Van De Wetering, author of the classic Grijpstra and De Gier MYSTERIES, will sign their books. Call for times. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**APRIL 22:** EARTH DAY.

**APRIL 22–MAY 13:** The Mission YMCA offers YOGA for children ages 4 to 6 from 8 to 8:45 am on Tuesdays, and cooking for 7- to 10-year-olds from 3 to 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Register at 452-7574.

**APRIL 23:** St. Luke's Hospital celebrates its first annual FOUNDER'S DAY with a cocktail reception and blessing of the new Donor Wall by Bishop William E. Swing. 4:30–7 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez, 1st floor. 641-6555.

**APRIL 23:** Julia Fischer will discuss essential oils for HOLISTIC SKIN CARE from 7 to 9 pm. Scarlet Sage Herb Company, 1173 Valencia St. 821-0997.



Glen Velez and the West Coast Framedrum Ensemble perform on Saturday, April 26, at the Noe Valley Music Series.

**APRIL 24:** A BOOK group for adults will discuss *Amsterdam* by Ian McEwan. 4 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

**APRIL 24:** UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meets at 7:30 pm at Upper Noe Rec Center. Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.

**APRIL 24–MAY 15:** The Mission YMCA offers INDOOR GOLF for kids 5 to 11. Thurs., 3:15–4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Register at 452-7574.

**APRIL 24–MAY 22:** The Mission YMCA holds HIP-HOP AEROBICS for adults, Thursdays, 6:15–7:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Register at 452-7574.

**APRIL 25:** "April in Paris," a JAZZ/BOOK PARTY at Bird and Beckett, features the Chuck Peterson Trio and readings from French literature. 7 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**APRIL 25–MAY 4:** NATIONAL DANCE WEEK includes over 200 Bay Area events, beginning with a kickoff party Fri., April 25, 7 pm, at the Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th St., and a mini-performance by the Joe Goode Group on Tues., April 29, 7 pm, at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. For a complete schedule, call 561-1433.

**APRIL 26:** BREAST CANCER ACTION sponsors a town meeting, "Coming Together: Moving from Illness to Activism," featuring workshops and speakers. 12:30–5 pm. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 243-9301.

**APRIL 26:** Word for Word theater company presents stories by SANDRA CISNEROS for ages 6 through adults. 3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**APRIL 26:** The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay FREEDOM BAND celebrates its 25th anniversary with a concert, sing-along, and historical memorabilia. 7 pm. Everett Middle School Auditorium, 450 Church St. 255-1355.

**APRIL 26:** Glen Velez and the West Coast FRAMEDRUM Ensemble perform a concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 27:** The seventh annual GLEN PARK FESTIVAL includes live music, arts and crafts vendors, a raffle, and children's programs. 10 am–5 pm. Diamond Street between Chenery and Bosworth. 835-2112.

**APRIL 27:** Walker Brents hosts an open reading of the works of poet ARTHUR RIMBAUD. 4:30 pm. Bird and Beckett, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

## May Flowers...

with events, so send us your calendar items! The next edition of the *Voice* will be distributed on or before May 2, 2003. Please make sure we hear about your event by **April 15**. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send e-mail to: [zabarska@aol.com](mailto:zabarska@aol.com).

**APRIL 29:** FILMS for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 include *Frog Goes to Dinner*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *Little Blue and Little Yellow*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**APRIL 29:** A POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING at Mission Station, covering the area north of Cesar Chavez, begins at 6 pm. 630 Valencia St. 558-5400.

**APRIL 30:** Natural Resources offers a child and INFANT CPR class. 6:30–9:30 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

**APRIL 30:** Diana Shpiel-o-rama, aka Diana Naparst, tells TALES and performs tricks for kids 3 to 7. 6:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

**APRIL 30:** POETS Forrest Hamer and Suzanne Lummis read from their work, in honor of National Poetry Month. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

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*Holy Thursday* April 17th: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7:30 p.m. with  
the Washing of the Feet Ceremony. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

*Good Friday* April 18th: Scriptural Readings and the Stations of  
the Cross at 12:00 noon. Good Friday Liturgy to follow. The Sacrament of  
Reconciliation will be available from noon until 1:30 p.m.

*Holy Saturday* April 19th: The Easter Vigil Service at 8:00 p.m.  
with the Blessing of the Fire and Lighting of the Pascal Candle, the  
Blessing of the Easter Water, the Celebration of Baptism, and the Renewal  
of Baptismal promises. Eucharist Celebration follows.

*Easter Sunday* April 20th: Masses are at 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. and  
12 Noon. Spanish Mass in the Convent Chapel at 11:15 a.m. (No Evening  
Mass today).

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## Easter and Passover



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## Easter and Passover



### Holy Week Services at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

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Palm Sunday Services  
Sunday, April 13  
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Maundy Thursday Service  
Thursday, April 17  
6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Services  
Friday, April 18  
Noon and 7 p.m.

The Easter Vigil  
Saturday, April 19  
9 p.m.

Easter Day  
Sunday, April 20  
9 a.m. Simple Eucharist  
11 a.m. Sung Eucharist



Weekly Sunday Services  
Simple Eucharist with music – 9 a.m.  
Sung Eucharist – 11 a.m.  
Godly Play for Children (3 to 10 years) – 10 a.m.

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Palm / Passion Sunday  
Sunday, April 13 10:30 a.m.  
From Parade to Passion Worship Service

Open Labyrinth Walk  
Sunday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service  
Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.  
Footwashing, Dinner, Communion

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20  
10:30 a.m. Glorious Worship Celebration!  
12 Noon Easter Egg Hunt, Open House, Brunch

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Holy  
Week  
Events



## Saint Paul's Parish

### Holy Week and Easter Services 2003

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Together, we shall celebrate new Life!

**PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY** Palms are blessed and given out at all masses  
Saturday, April 12 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, April 13 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. (Spanish),  
12:15 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY**  
April 15

**Tenebrae Service: Praying the Passion of Jesus**  
7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
April 16

**Communal Reconciliation Service**  
and Individual Confession, 7:00 p.m.

**HOLY THURSDAY**  
April 17

**Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)**  
7:30 p.m.  
Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 p.m.

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
April 18

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion**  
Confession / Reconciliation, 11:00 a.m.- Noon  
Good Friday Bilingual Services, Noon - 3:00 p.m.  
Confession / Reconciliation, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
April 19

Confession / Reconciliation, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection**, 7:30 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 20

**Commemoration of the Lord's Resurrection**  
Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:15, 10:45 (Spanish)  
12:15 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

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AFTER THE 9:15 A.M. MASS FOR CHILDREN FROM PRESCHOOL TO 3RD GRADE

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Good Friday Vespers: April 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Easter Vigil: April 19 at 8:00 p.m.

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# NOE VALLEY KIDS

*and their families*



Get your Girl Scout Cookies here. Members of troop 727 were at the corner of 24th Street and Noe selling the tasty treats and offering up free smiles. From left, they are Liana, Chloe, Allison, Karissa, Shelby and Camille.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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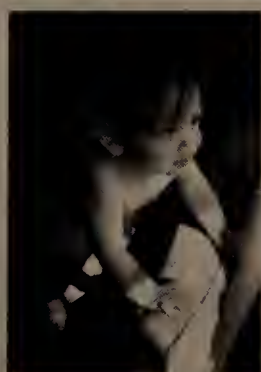


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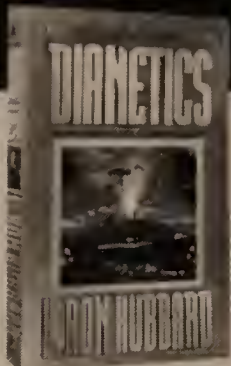
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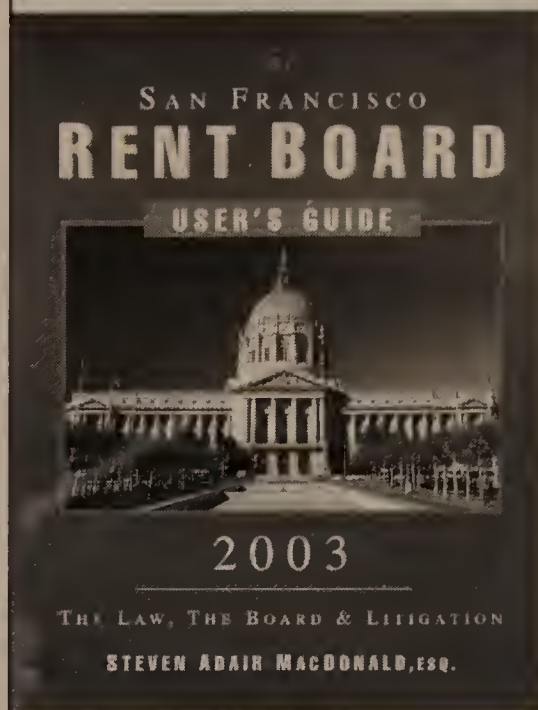
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## FAMILY ADVENTURES

## ARE WE THERE YET?

## CLOSE TO HOME

## That Dam Dam!

## Fishing at San Pablo Reservoir

By Janis Cooke Newman

I am standing beside the Smelly Jelly bait display when I overhear a mom ask her 9-year-old son if he's looked at "that dam menu."

"Yeah," her son replies. "I want that dam combo."

"Do you want me to see about a boat?" asks the woman's husband. He is wearing a fishing license in a little plastic case pinned to the brim of his hat.

"Sure," says the woman. "Go talk to that dam company."

Anyplace else, I'd consider this a family in need of a good talking to from Miss Manners. But this is San Pablo Reservoir, where all the concessions are run by That Dam Company—a group of folks who might be a little too much in love with those dam puns.

San Pablo Reservoir is 35 minutes in distance and a million miles in ambience away from San Francisco. Turn off San Pablo Dam Road and you're suddenly in the wilderness—albeit, wilderness with a picnic area, a boat dock, and a playground. Still, all these amenities sit amidst 860 acres of trout-filled lake



A fisherman shows why his cap says he is a member of the Whopper Club.

and rolling green hills—you'd never know you were within fly-casting distance of Orinda.

It's the trout that brings the families to San Pablo, lugging tackle boxes filled with rubber worms and rooster tails. From mid-February to mid-November, the reservoir is stocked regularly, and it's stocked with really big trout.

I'm checking out these really big trout in Polaroids displayed on the window of That Dam Company's snack bar and general store. Any fisherman, woman, or child who catches a trophy trout—anything bigger than 5 lbs.—gets themselves and their trout immortalized in a photograph. I can't help but notice that every monster trout on the window was caught in the last two days, and though I know it's bad fishing karma to get too cocky about catch you haven't

caught, I'm already thinking we're going to need two bottles of Sauvignon Blanc to wash down our trout dinner.

In the general store, my husband buys a yearly fishing license for himself, which he attaches to his fishing vest, next to the line clipper, knot-tyer, hemostat, and sheepskin fly patch. I get a two-day license, which I pin to my sweatshirt. My son, Alex, who at 8, doesn't need a license, buys a little rubber squid, which he names Bob.

The three of us hike through a forest of oak and manzanita on the optimistically named Whopper Trail to a shady cove. There, we bait our hooks with globs of yellow Powerbait—a substance with the consistency of Playdoh and the aroma of Vietnamese fish sauce.

"Cast into the shadows," instructs my husband. "Fish like the shadows."

Since he's the one in the vest, we do as he says. Then we wait for the giant trout that will land our photograph on the window of the general store. A pair of Canada geese make a honking landing on the surface of the water. A line of green-headed ducks parades past our lines. Alex catches a bunch of weeds. My husband gets his line tangled in the branches of a tree while executing a flashy cast, a development which gives him a good excuse to use at least three of the tools attached to his vest.

After an hour, a small fishing boat anchors at the mouth of our cove, and a dad and his teenage son drop their lines. Within five minutes, the son pulls out a big silvery trout.

"What are you using?" my husband shouts.

"Chartreuse Powerbait," says the dad.

We rebait our hooks with globs of chartreuse Powerbait and cast back into the cove. After 45 minutes, Alex catches another bunch of weeds.

"We need a boat," my husband says.

We hike back up to the store, where several large men are posing with several equally large (at least by fish standards) trout. The men all wear serious expressions and hats that say "Whopper Club." "What'd you use?" my husband asks them.

"Fluorescent-orange Powerbait," they tell him.

"We'd like a boat," says my husband to the man behind the counter. "And fluorescent-orange Powerbait."

We rent a small motor boat, and after the dockhand instructs us to "have a dam good time!" we cruise across the reservoir to a cove, where several other boats are pulling in trout as fast as they can throw out their lines.

We fish for about half an hour, during which time I hook Alex's line, and my husband gets to use another couple of tools on his vest. Then, my husband calls over to a patio boat filled with kids in puffy orange life vests.

"What are you using?" he shouts.

"Hot-pink Powerbait," the kids yell back.

We change from fluorescent orange to hot pink, and return our lines to the water.



Whether or not you hook a trout, you can find a huge reservoir, and refuge from some forms of civilization, at San Pablo Dam.

Photos by Ken Newman

"You know, they stock this lake with 250,000 trout every year," my husband tells me.

"Then how come we can't catch one?" I say.

"I want to try another color," says Alex, reeling in his line.

"They're using pink," my husband warns, pointing to the kids on the patio boat, who are dancing around a freshly caught trout.

"I don't like pink," Alex says.

Alex wipes the pink Powerbait on his pants and replaces it with rainbow. Five minutes later, he pulls in a wriggling trout—not Polaroid-in-the-window size, but enough to require at least one bottle of Sauvignon Blanc.

My husband examines the fish, and then changes his own bait to rainbow.

"Here," he says to Alex. "You wear the vest." □

**Are We There Yet?** is a *Noe Valley Voice* feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please e-mail Janis Cooke Newman at [thereyet@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:thereyet@noevalleyvoice.com).

## That Dam Trout

Whether your San Pablo trout is trophy-sized or barely legal, this is the way to prepare it. Make a marinade by mixing together:

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
2 tablespoons fresh parsley  
2 tablespoons fresh basil  
1/4 teaspoon white pepper  
1 chopped shallot

Whisk in 1/2 cup olive oil, and add salt to taste. Marinate the trout for 15 to 20 minutes, then grill, basting frequently with the marinade.

## The Dam Details

*Getting to San Pablo Reservoir:* Take the Bay Bridge to 80 East. Exit at El Portal Drive. Turn left onto San Pablo Dam Road until you see the sign for San Pablo Reservoir. The recreation area is open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. in April (after Daylight Savings Time), until 8:30 p.m. in May, and until 9 p.m. in June and July. The general day use fee is \$6. There is also a daily fishing access permit fee of \$3.50 for anglers over 16. If you're over 16, you also need to have a valid California State Fishing license. An annual license costs \$30.70. A two-day license is \$11.05.

The general store at the reservoir sells fishing gear, bait, sunblock, ice cream, drinks, T-shirts, etc. They also rent boats. A four-person motorboat runs \$21/hour, or \$40 for a half-day. Call the store at 510-223-1661 for more info. You can also rent a picnic area for birthday parties and other fishy celebrations. The Oaks Reserved Picnic Area costs \$225. Contact That Dam Company at the number above. For general information on San Pablo Reservoir, visit [www.ebnnud.com/services/recreation/east\\_bay/san\\_pablo](http://www.ebnnud.com/services/recreation/east_bay/san_pablo).

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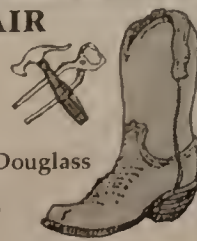
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## BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new book list, chosen by Noe Valley Head Librarian Roberta Greifer and Children's Librarian Carol Small, features a hippie-era mystery, an anthology of poetry by Arab women, and Emeril Lagasse's kids cookbook. To find out what books are available, call 695-5095 or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street, near Castro Street. Besides books, the branch offers magazines, videos, DVDs, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also has periodicals such as *USA Today* and the *New York Times*, a collection of books in Spanish, a women's literature section, and a section devoted to college and career resources. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Adult Fiction

◆ Set in 1659 Amsterdam, *The Coffee Trader*, by David Liss, is about a sharp-witted trader who ventures into a precarious partnership with a seductive woman.

◆ In *Drop City* by T.C. Boyle, a '70s down-at-the-heels California commune decides to relocate to the Alaskan wilds.

◆ In *White Rabbit*, a mystery by David Daniel set in the 1960s Haight Ashbury, a cop and a young hippie join forces to solve a series of murders.

### Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *Aet It Out*, psychologist Stefanie Stolinsky, Ph.D., uses acting exercises as the basis for a self-guided recovery method for adult survivors of sexual, physical, or emotional trauma.

◆ In *Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town*, Paul Theroux revisits the Africa he knew 40 years ago when he was a teacher in the Malawi bush.

◆ *The Gate*, by François Bizot, the only Westerner ever to escape a Khmer Rouge prison, is a moving account of his arrest and capture in 1970s Cambodia on suspicion of being an American spy.

◆ In three short essays collected in *In the Presence of Fear*, author Wendell Berry reflects on how our world has changed since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

◆ *The Poetry of Arab Women*, an anthology edited by Nathalie Handal, contains the poetry of 83 contemporary women from 16 different countries.

### Children's Fiction

◆ Photographer Myles Pinkney and author Sandra Pinkney have collaborated to produce *A Rainbow Around Me*, a joyous and multi-ethnic celebration of colors and children. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ *A New Home* by Tim Bowers is short, easy to read, and tells the story of a move to a new home, the loss of an important possession, and the forming of a new friendship. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ *Tanya and the Red Shoes*, by Patricia Lee Gauch, illustrated by Satomi Ichikawa, is about a young girl who dreams of dancing *sur pointes* and finds out about the hard work, blisters, and fun that come about when she can finally do it. *Ages 4 to 7.*

◆ Although 9-year-old Joshua shares his father's excitement about leaving Missouri and making the trip to Oregon, there are many hardships ahead in *Westward to Home: Joshua's Diary, The Oregon Trail, 1848*, by Patricia Hermes. *Ages 8 to 11.*

◆ When a seventh-grader at a mall is handed a large paper bag with a baby inside, it is the beginning of a fascinating and dangerous series of events in Wendelin Van Draanen's *Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes*. *Ages 10 and up.*

### Children's Nonfiction

◆ In *The Wright Brothers: A Flying Start*, Elizabeth MacLeod uses straightforward text, period photographs, and cartoon balloons to show how determination and hard work, as well as excitement about making a "flying machine," resulted in two men making aviation history 100 years ago. *Ages 8 to 10.*

◆ The next time you're hungry, head for the kitchen and make "Totally Terrific Cheese Toast" or "Mile-High Blueberry Muffins." The recipes for these and many more delicious treats can be found in *Emeril's There's a Chef in My Soup: Recipes for the Kid in Everyone*, by chef Emeril Lagasse. *Ages 7 to 11.*

◆ "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "I've Been Working on the Railroad" are only two of the traditional tunes for which Alan Katz has written original, humorous, and slightly gross lyrics in *Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs*, with illustrations by David Catrow. *Ages 6 to 9.*



## LIBRARY EVENTS

### Word for Word Storytelling

◆ Word for Word theater company performs stories by *Sandra Cisneros* for all ages, on Saturday, April 26, at 3 p.m.

### Poetry Reading

◆ In honor of *National Poetry Month*, Forrest Hamer, Oakland therapist and author of *Call and Response*; and Suzanne Lummis, director of the Los Angeles Poetry Festival; read from their work on Wednesday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m.

### Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 can hear stories read aloud at *preschool story time*, at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, April 1, 8, and 22.

### Films in February

◆ The library invites preschoolers 3 to 5 to watch a series of short *films*, including *Frog Goes to Dinner*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *Little Blue and Little Yellow*, on Tuesday, April 29, at 10 and 11 a.m.

### Family Lapsits

◆ The library's family *lapsit* offers stories, songs, and finger plays for infants and toddlers at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, April 5 and 26.



Noe Valley head librarian Roberta Greifer contributed this month's adult book annotations. Children's librarian Carol Small wrote the children's book descriptions.

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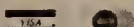
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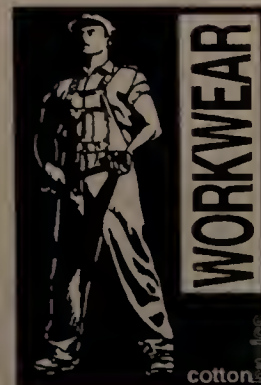
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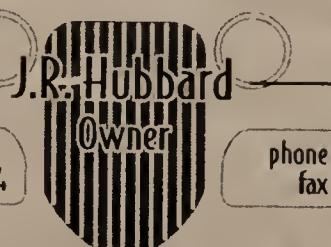
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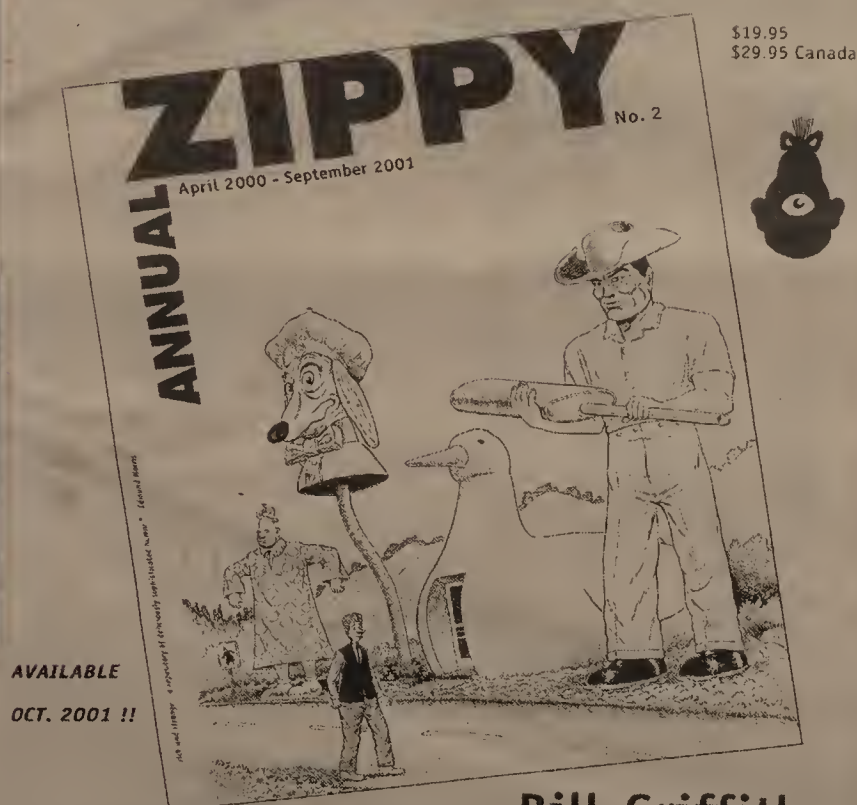
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The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the May 2003 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before May 2. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS APRIL 15, 2003.**

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Between Iraq and a Hard Place

By Mazook

**J**EST FOR FUN: On April 1, the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) released a list of the 10 worst "jokes" in the neighborhood:

10. The arduous process of exiting Downtown Noe Valley's public parking lot on 24th Street between Radio Shack and Le Zinc. Fronting in or backing out can be tricky as well as hazardous for both drivers and pedestrians, who have to look both ways before crossing the sidewalk. By the way, one more spot was added to the parking lot last month, after a storm-felled tree was finally removed.

9. The frenzy of Noe Valley parents madly filling out applications, trying to get their children into an elementary/middle/high school of their choice in San Francisco. All you applicant families got your notices in mid-March. Acceptance or rejection? That is the question. Remember the good ol' days when neighborhood schools were filled with neighborhood kids, and that was that?

8. The uselessness of Muni's handicapped ramps at the end of Church Street. They are almost never used, cost close to a million dollars back in 1996 when they were constructed, disrupted an entire business district, and leave riders out in the cold. Making Uptown Noe Valley handicapped-accessible could have been accomplished much more creatively.

7. The non-enforcement of the dog leash law at Noe Courts at 24th and Douglass. The dogs have just about taken over the whole park. The NVBI cited a recent Bureau surveillance on a sunny Sunday afternoon in March, when nine or more off-leash dogs were chasing each other around the lawn area. One dog ran onto the tennis court and fetched balls that were in play and carried them out to the lawn. Another dog invited himself into a one-on-one basketball game between two 10-year-old boys and popped the ball out with his teeth. Dogs were relieving themselves everywhere (although owners were picking up the mess). Of course, the human bathrooms at this lovely open space have been out of order since 1959, forcing parents to take their kids into the bushes or beg local merchants for the use of their water closets.

6. The miniature protest signs erected in piles of dog poop along Church Street. Yes, the anonymous vigilante we dubbed "the Poop Patroller" back in 1999 is again on the loose, planting the small printed signs with messages like "Yum-yum." (Actually, this is a good joke: the piles seem to be disappearing.)

5. The "No Left Turn" sign at Bell Market that nobody obeys. There are hordes of people who turn left onto 24th Street when exiting Bell's parking lot, despite the huge city sign at the sidewalk. Are we that impatient?

4. The number of solicitations to Noe Valley merchants for contributions to various schools, nonprofits, and causes. The NVBI estimates each merchant has to decide how—and whether—to budget from 50 to 300 requests for donations per year. Many merchants keep lists several pages long so that they can keep track of the demand and supply. The retail value of these donations can easily exceed \$3,000 for any one merchant over the year.

3. The lack of speed limits on the Clipper Street racecourse. Even a series of re-



cent accidents hasn't slowed down the cars and trucks that zoom down this slalom. It gets especially harrowing between Douglass and Castro during peak hours. Yikes! Could we get some speed bumps up there?

Maybe they could set up one of those radar speedometers that posts motorists' speed. Last month the SFPD had one on Sanchez Street near the 29th Street intersection. According to Ingleside Police Sgt. Tim Plyer, "The speed trailer was requested by some of the neighbors who thought people needed a reminder as to how fast they were going down Sanchez Street. We now think drivers have gotten the message."

2. The San Francisco Planning Commission's creative interpretations of height and bulk limits for homes and commercial developments in Noe Valley. That whole process is a joke. It seems the neighbors are better able to deal with the developers than with City Hall. I used to think our government was, as Abraham Lincoln described it, "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Noe Valley will have to join forces with the other 57 neighborhoods in San Francisco to form a coalition and take back City Hall.

1. And (drum roll) the No. 1 bad joke in Noe Valley this April Fool's Day is that the rest of the world is so surprised that the United States would find itself between Iraq and a hard place. Hello, out there? The folly of our invasion has been the main topic in Noe Valley coffeehouses for a long time.

Did you see the spontaneous, e-mail-driven candlelight peace vigils which brought out hundreds of Noe Valleons to street corners, churches, and parks throughout the neighborhood on Sunday, March 16? A sight to behold.

☎ ☎ ☎

**POLE-ING FOR PEACE:** Noe Valley residents also gathered Saturday, March 29, at the corner of Elizabeth and Diamond (with the blessing of St. Philip's Church) to erect a "peace pole." The monument is actually a six-foot obelisk on top of a four-foot planter box, whose sides are inscribed with the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth"—in four languages: English, Spanish, Japanese, and Gaelic.

Started in Japan about 30 years ago, the Peace Pole Project is an offspring of the World Peace Prayer Society. The group sent 11 people from Japan to attend the Noe Valley ceremony, which included naming all the countries in the world and saying a prayer for each. "Of course, we said special prayers for the U.S. and Iraq, in Arabic as well as in English," said Fumi Stewart, a Cesar Chavez Street resident who helped organize the event.

Fumi wants her neighbors to know they can bring prayers, mementos, and anything symbolic of peace to say, do, or place at the pole. It will remain as a permanent monument in the neighborhood. She also points out that it's our second—the first peace pole stands in front of Video Wave on Castro near 25th Street.

Says Fumi, there are now over 10,000 peace poles planted throughout the U.S. "It's a wonderful way to get people together to think about peace. It's a great visual reminder of peace, and a consciousness-raising activity. I like to call it the acupuncture of the earth."

☎ ☎ ☎

**IN NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION NEWS:** At a March 26 meeting, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association chose a new president, longtime Noe Valleon Carol Yenne, who owns the kids clothing shop Small Frys. Selecta Body Shop owner J.R. Hubbard will serve as vice president. Indigo V's Diane Barrett stays on as secretary, and Tony Lyau, manager of the local B of A branch, continues as treasurer.

Carol says she is "looking forward to working with other neighborhood groups towards common goals, to help foster a healthy commercial climate in the neighborhood, and to get 100 percent participation in our group by local merchants."

The spring election results also are in

for the very active Noe Valley Democratic Club. Rafael Mandelman was elected president, Jury Larsen vice president, Richard Newhagen corresponding secretary, Tamara Dahn recording secretary, and Laura Spanjian treasurer. Rafael says he's "been involved with the club for a couple of years and I feel very comfortable with all of the people and the politics of the club. We have about 60 members, all of whom are good people who really care about this neighborhood."

Noe Valley's oldest group, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, will be celebrating its 100th birthday next year. The members recently decided to start holding their meetings every other month. According to East & West president Paul Kantus, the alternating meetings will make things easier for the members who are also members of Friends of Noe Valley (which changed its meeting schedule to alternating months not too long ago). Paul says with a laugh, "We will have our meetings on the months

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58



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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

Friends does not, and vice versa."

It's Friends' turn this month. The FNV meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10 (not April 9, as I mistakenly reported last month), at 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library. Rec and Park chief Elizabeth Goldstein will be on hand to discuss her department's plans for capital improvements to our neighborhood parks.

If you're there and I'm not, will you please tell her that the first capital improvement should be opening the bathrooms at Noe Courts.



MEALS READY TO EAT: Two Noe Valley restaurants made *San Francisco* magazine's "Cheap Eats" list in the April is-

sue: Herb's Fine Foods, in Downtown Noe Valley since 1943, and the Uptown upstart Deep Sushi, at Church and Day.

Of Herb's the editors wrote, "No need to bother with the specials board in the back—an honest order of scrambled eggs, bacon, plenty of golden hash browns, and buttered wheat toast should do it."

As for Deep Sushi, the mag says it's really hopping, despite the lack of a sign outside. "Ask the hip happy sushi chef behind the bar what's good tonight, and he might reply, 'I'm good,' then laugh and fix you one smooth slab of hamachi." The chef's name, by the way, is Kita.

The place was packed like a California roll the night of March 20, due to the fact that Infogrames, a Paris-based computer design company, had booked the restaurant for a 150-person party. Infogrames had just bought out Atari, which was celebrating the release of a new Japanese video game called "Ikaruga." You could play the game on four flat screens brought

in especially for the event.

According to Noe Valley native Ray Tobias, who owns Deep Sushi with his partner Galvin Gaviola, the party had "a lot of press people, computer people, people who came over from Japan, and TV people. It was an 'all you can eat' menu, with all the sake you could drink, so I've never seen it so busy. I think they heard about us from their people based somewhere near Boston, since we are seeing a lot of people who are visiting here from the East Coast."

Also bringing national recognition to upper Church Street is the Italian restaurant Incanto, which was honored by the Monterey Wine Festival for having the best wine list in the Casual Dining category, with 100 to 250 wine selections. Incanto owner Mark Pastore will travel to Monterey on April 4 to pick up his award. Says Mark, "We were very happy to win, in a field of over 500 from around the country."

Incanto's sommelier is Claudio Villani, who was born and raised in Florence, Italy. The restaurant stores about 3,000 bottles at any given time, in climate-controlled wine closets.



OUTER NOE VALLEY IS IN these days. On Feb. 26, the *San Francisco Chronicle* featured three Church Street stores in Laura Thomas' "Hot Stuff" column: Willa (at 27th), the Pickled Hutch (at 28th), and Nifty Vintique (at 30th).

Willa owner Elena Duggan, who is a third-generation Noe Valleon, was quoted as saying, "This is the best neighborhood in the whole city...we know everybody, their kids, their dogs, what coffee they're drinking."

Her store, named after her dog Willa, sells an abundance of French soaps and lotions, quilts, candles, stationery, jewelry, and baby and pet bedding.

Since the story came out, "it's been kind of amazing," she says. "We've had people coming from all over the Bay Area."

(Elena's assistant Mary Gamma, by the way, was born in Noe Valley in 1926. In 1920, Mary's father, Frank Raffo, opened the Noe Valley Market at 26th and Sanchez, where the clock repair shop now stands. There are four generations of Noe Valleons living in Mary's family.)

Debbie Cole over at the Pickled Hutch antique shop told the *Chron* about her grandparents and great-grandparents, who lived in Noe Valley, and her "well-arranged jumble" of furniture, rugs, mirrors, paintings, and household wares.

Holly Schneider's Nifty shop was de-

scribed as "bursting" with kitschy castoffs from the '30s, '40s, and '50s. I agree that it's probably one of the better spots in the city to play "Where's Waldo?"



PLAYING MUSICAL STORES: Nomad Rugs wandered over from Church Street around the corner to 24th Street, which allowed the Forbeadin' bead shop to occupy Nomad's old space. In May, the artsy Chatterbox will be moving out of its tiny closet-like surroundings into the more spacious premises vacated by Forbeadin', which way back when was Mike's Barber Shop.

Chatterbox owner Julie Anderson is going to celebrate the move by giving up her walls to Noe Valley abstract painter Marc Ellen Hamel, whose exhibit will be up probably by mid-May. As for the space to be vacated by Chatterbox, no news.

Just one more Church Street item, I promise. That filming you saw in mid-January at Drewes Meat Market was not for a movie but rather for a TV commercial for a restaurant chain called Piccadilly, with locations in the southern states. The spot should be appearing very soon in places like North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama...but not here.

Wild Scientific, a production company from Seattle, picked Drewes for the commercial, "because it's an iconic butcher shop," says location manager Peter Kwong. "It has great old-time counters and fixtures, with the old pictures in the background. I searched locations in the Bay Area, and Drewes had the look we needed for the spot, which was comedic and depicted an empty butcher shop on the days the restaurant has its 'Butcher's Meat Specials.'"

Drewes first opened for business in 1888, and still has the steelyard tracks on the ceiling that were formerly used to hook the meat and roll it out of the freezer to the weighing scale. I guess you can't find that sort of thing in Georgia anymore.



THAT'S ALL, YOU ALL. Be cool. Chill out. Pray for peace. To help you chill, I would suggest spending your weekend brunch time reading the *New York Times*, listening to Mississippi Delta blues in front of Alcatrazes, the Cajun eatery on 24th Street. According to Alcatrazes chef Glenn "Gator" Thompson, who gets up there and sings between orders, the band features Herman Wilson on sax, Jimmy Sweetwater on harp, P.A. Slim on guitar, and waitress Sarah Jane singing vocals. Check it out, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. ☐

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Firestone: 2800 Geary, 567-3311  
Kragen: 3855 Geary, 668-5241  
T&R76-1: 3501 Geary, 752-3968

**Pacific Heights & Western Addition**  
Chevron: 2500 California, 567-1136

**South of Market**  
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Jiffy Lube: 300 7th St., 255-0900  
Kragen: 2300 16th St., 431-3386  
Mark Morris Tires: 1401 Mission, 863-3939  
Quality Tune-Up: 490 S. Van Ness, 431-6550  
SF Honda: 10 S. Van Ness, 441-2000

**Potrero Hill & Mission Bay**  
R + W 76: 800 Folsom, 982-2836  
S&C Ford: 211 Industrial, 553-4400

**Marina & Cow Hollow**  
Kragen: 2246 Lombard, 563-4200

**Portola & Visitation Valley**  
Kragen: 2500 San Bruno, 656-0696  
Portola Auto: 2780 San Bruno, 468-5175  
Sanitary Fill Company: 501 Tunnel, 330-1400

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Kragen: 2150 Taraval, 682-9177  
Chevron: 1890 19th Ave., 731-2733  
Mark's Unocal 76: 1700 Noriega, 566-0440

**North Beach & Telegraph Hill**  
Port of SF: China Basin @ Pier 52/54, 274-0565  
Port of SF: Hyde St. Harbor @ Jefferson, 274-0565

**Russian Hill, Nob Hill & Tenderloin**  
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Jiffy Lube: 2030 Van Ness, 922-7258  
Mark Morris Tires: 1200 Larkin, 673-3441

**Civic Center**  
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**Mission & Bernal Heights**  
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**Bayview & Hunters Point**  
ABC Auto: 1650 Davidson Ave., 826-8676

**Excelsior & Crocker Amazon**  
Kragen: 1150 Ocean, 585-9800  
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Claremont Chevron: 301 Claremont, 753-9552



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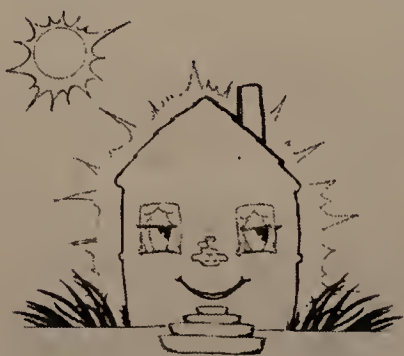
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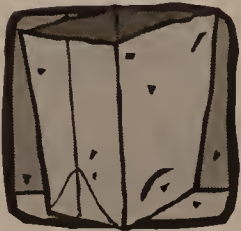
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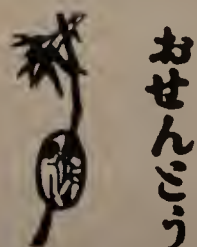
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# MY BIG FAT NOE VALLEY VOICE

## The Noe Is Now Legal Tender

By Jack Dawslovemybigspinxofquartz

Some people have a Yen, some drive a Euro, and others sell shekels by the seashore, but in Noe Valley, we measure our wealth in Noes.

Beginning April 1, the Noe will be the official—and only—currency accepted in the neighborhood. Roughly equivalent to \$10 or four lattes, each Noe is woven from hemp and printed in purple ink, distilled from organic beets.

Residents can convert their old American dollars at two locations in the neighborhood: Washedup Mutual Bank on 24th Street and O'Greenspan's tavern on Dolores. For each \$1,000 exchanged, you will receive a special certificate allowing you to exchange a thousand dollars more.

"We wanted to reward our neighbors for their support during these troubling economic times," said Merchants Association President Joe Millionaire, who spearheaded the drive to introduce the new money. "And we're delighted they're helping us, by spending all their money right here!"

Shoppers should note that although the Noes are welcome on the three main blocks of 24th Street, they are worth nothing east of Guerrero, west of Diamond, north of Elizabeth Street, and south of Jer-

CONTINUED IN THE BUSINESS SECTION

## Pardon Our Dust!

## Voice Bunker Construction Almost Done

From Under the Editor's Desk

Who's responsible for all that dust and digging and noise on 24th Street? Okay, we confess: it's us. The staff of the *Noe Valley Voice* is putting the finishing touches on our seven-story bomb shelter, following approval April 1 by the city's Planning Commission.

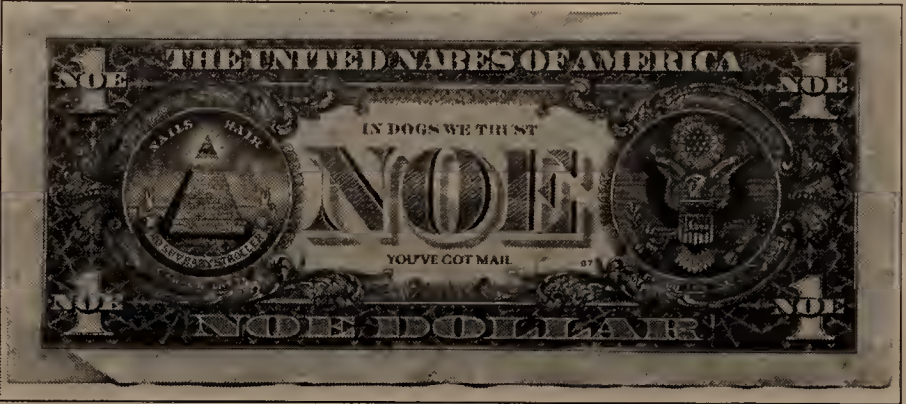
Though the building, to be located six feet under Bliss Bar, is somewhat large, as a concession to neighbors who complained that it was a "monster," we have scaled it down a full three feet and turned down the music. Designed with the help of Los Alamos scientists and Tuggey's Hardware, the 35,000-sq.ft. bunker has been built to withstand nuclear missiles, suicide bombers, chemical weapons, and ants. It will be stocked with bon-bons, gumbo, and margarita mix for 40.

Originally, the *Voice* hoped to accommodate all Noe Valley residents in the shelter. However, we are sorry to report that due to personal spatial needs, the bunker will be open only to current staff.

If an unforeseen disaster on 24th Street prevents us from executing our plan, you will find us up on Church Street, where we'll all be in Deep Sushi. ☐



**They're Here at Last!** The new Noe dollars, minted in the basement of the Noe Valley Ministry, finally rolled off the presses in late March. The first batch had to be thrown out, due to a misspelling of the name of the neighborhood. Photo by Inky Fingers Jack



## Examiner Makes a 'Change' For the Better

By P. R. Hack

Starting April 1, the *San Francisco Examiner* will embark upon another glorious phase in its 120-year history. On that day, the 50-cent fishwrap will become the first daily paper in the United States to actually pay people to read it. In fact, people will be paid just to remove it from a box on the sidewalk.

Readers will recall that three years ago, William Randolph Hearst IV and his minions paid the Dang Family of Waco, Tex., \$666 million to take over the publication. This once respected news organ, with a daily circulation of 100,000 copies, has now been reshaped into a tabloid read by literally dozens.

However, the Dangs had a problem: the bulk of the money was paid to them in quarters. After their bank refused to accept such a large volume of quarters—even in rolls—the Dangs decided to install a special coin return on their newsracks, which would pop out a quarter once the door was opened.

There is some worry that people might open and close the newspaper box without taking a copy, or perhaps take a copy without actually reading it, and that eventually, this sort of behavior might lessen the value of advertisements placed in the paper. After all, ads will be the lifeblood of the *Examiner* once its operating subsidy runs out a couple of decades from now. But Dang has a plan for this, too. "I

don't want to give anything away (except the paper)," she says with a mischievous grin. "But let's just say that you might find a crisp new dollar bill stapled in there every now and then." ☐

## Everything's Fine

In Mr. Poger's Neighborhood

The sun rises blithely on another day here in Happy Valley. Pedestrians flow down the sidewalk along 24th Street, babbling like a brook, pausing to laugh with friends and scratch dogs behind the ears. Most, of course, are on their way to work at fulfilling jobs, but many others are just plain enjoying their vacation days, thanks to efficiency gains resulting from recent corporate mergers.

Indeed, neighborhood travel agents have seen quite a boom in recent months as residents take advantage of these fat economic times to travel overseas. This winter's big destination has been Baghdad. As you may know, that colorful city is the capital of the storied nation of Iraq, nestled between eclectic Iran and charming Syria. Travel agents attribute this "Baghdad Boost" to President Bush's recent trip to Baghdad, where he announced a massive buildup in our Peace Corps deployments in the region.

Just back from an invigorating jaunt to Baghdad is Horatio Algernon, whom you may have encountered in years past as one of our colorful, jocular panhandlers. Thanks to the city's new "We're All in This Together" homelessness outreach program, not only does he have a rewarding job in the Financial District, but he has received treatment for his chronically swollen foot and is literally on his own two feet again. On this sunny morning, Algernon emerges from Tom and Dave's Juice-Them with a tasty "Ambrosia Amnesia" smoothie, just as a sleek city bus glides up to the corner.

Meanwhile, as schoolchildren dance along the sidewalk on their way to school, shopkeepers remind them to stop by in the afternoon for freshly baked chocolate-chip cookies. Their teachers, having been whisked to school in limousines earlier in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 REALLY

## Was José de Jesus Noe an Alien?

By Rosemary Cloney



"I come in peace. I mean, I grow peas," said resident alien José de Jesus Noe. "Corn, too," he added. Photo from the San Frantupple Archives

Although it has long been acknowledged that the founding father of our neighborhood, José de Jesus Noe, was an immigrant, the Ralphians, a local sect, discovered that he traces his origins from many light years farther away than Spain.

In fact, Noe arrived here in 1802 from Willa, a small green planet just outside the Sanchuzian Nebula. His spacecraft, in the shape of a mule train, crash-landed at the top of Battle Mountain. Longtime Hill Street resident Scully Muldar noted, "He just appeared out of nowhere."

The Ralphians, who meet for monthly worship at Bell Market, were forced to admit to Noe's alien status when an historical photo of the settler/spaceman was unearthed at a 30th Street garage sale. Although faded by time, the image clearly shows a goggle-eyed, antennaed, and mustachioed Noe, a little over a meter in height, with pale green skin and six legs

CONTINUED IN AREA 51





**At Least the People Who Live in Cars Are Safe.** Everybody knows it's illegal to live in cars, but high rents have made it a necessity for a number of new curbside residents of Vicksburg Street. In compliance with homeland security guidelines, the four-wheeled dwellings are wrapped in plastic sheeting and secured with duct tape (not shown). Inhabitants are now safe from chemical and biological toxins, nuclear fallout, and the corona virus, but suffocation has proven to be a nasty side effect.

Photo by Pamela Jihad

## It's Just Perfect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the day, are savoring canapés prepared by Mrs. Butterworth and the rest of the cafeteria crew.

Yes siree, things have never looked better in our town.

Algernon attributes the positive vibe to the sustained economic growth our region has enjoyed in recent years. "It's just like all the analysts told us," he beams. "Our investment of time and money in the dot-com economy has produced a sustainable dividend, shared among us pretty equally."

The only drawback is that we rarely get to see beloved beat cop Guy Lombardo in the neighborhood anymore, because of the lack of crime. "I can't remember the last time my place was broken into," said Vic Tim, "even though I never lock the doors." "D'accord," congenially interjects Louie Cans. Cans, a member of a cultural exchange program visiting from Paris, cites the global sense of contentedness resulting from the Pax Americana that has followed the Cold War. "This sense of peace and security lifts the spirits of people around the world. It is a great honor and pleasure to share the global community with our friends, the Americans!"

With that, the trio proceeded down the street for a healthy and delicious breakfast, the perfect start to another perfect day here in Happy Valley. ☐

*Editor's Note: Rod Serling and Jack Daniels contributed to this report.*

## Noetainment

**APRIL 1:** The Roxie premieres *The Nanoseconds*, one of the year's shortest FILMS, based on a paragraph by Virginia Woolf. 250 showings daily; call for times. 16th & Valencia. 503-2091.

**APRIL 1:** The San Francisco League of Urbane Gardeners (SLUG) holds its MONTHLY MEETING. Bring caviar to share, an ascot, and an air of sophistication. RSVP to Reginald.

**APRIL 1:** The Noe Valley SENIORS lunch group performs *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Bathroom*. Mon.-Fri., noon to 1 pm. 1012 Sanchez St. 555-3401.

**APRIL 1:** The Noe Valley MYSTERY Book Club meets to discuss *The Case of the Disappearing High-Tech Job* and *Where'd That Building Go?* Midnight. Under the streetlight in the corner by the old craggy elm tree to the west of Rudy Paul.

**APRIL 1:** Sarin & Ricin perform COMEDY "that's an absolute gas," according to underground sources. Today, 7 pm. Modern Times Infirmary.

**APRIL 1:** The Friends of the Urban Forest gives a lecture, "The Many Shrubs and Bushes of Texas and Florida: Is Pest Control Possible?" 2 pm. The Secret Garden. 7th Ave. and Never.

## Protect & Serve Fajitas

### Lunchable Looting: 7:03 a.m. on April 1; 30th and Noe streets

Noe Valley residents were shocked by an early morning heist at a local bus stop that left one toddler in tears and another behind bars in what city officials have already dubbed "The Unmentionable Lunchable" caper.

About 7 a.m., 4-year-old Alex Fagan III, a student at the PeeWee Herman Daycare Center at 30th and Noe Streets, approached another 4-year-old and demanded to know the contents of his Barbie lunchbox.

The targeted tyke stammered, "My Luncha-boohooohoo..." as Fagan III grabbed the box and punched the victim in the nose. "I did it because I could," he later told investigators.

Fagan III was placed in the new Michael Jackson/Little Rascals Anger Management Program on Alcatraz Island. That afternoon, Jackson staged a media event in which he appeared at a third-floor window of the prison, startling reporters by allowing the diminutive Fagan III to dangle him by his toes. Both incidents are currently under investigation by the SFPD Crime Scene Machinations Unit.

—*Snoozin Herel*

### QUICK SHOTS

➤ A woman in the 100 block of Hoffman Avenue reported on Tuesday that her next-door neighbor had stolen her favorite baby name, then promptly sold her house and fled.

➤ A family living on Diamond Street told police that someone had stolen their anti-war window signs and left behind a French beret. "Who would do something like this?" asked the reporting party. "I give up."

➤ A scuffle occurred Tuesday morning at Herb's Fine Foods. A bedraggled woman told responding officers that she was trying to sit at a booth by herself when a waitress asked her to sit at the counter, since the booths were reserved for two or more. In the ensuing brawl, the customer was left with egg on her face.

➤ A shoplifter at Jest for Fun filed a complaint with police saying store officials had refused to add her picture to the Wall of Shame. She was informed that store owners had converted to digital photos, and she would be charged \$5 if she wanted hers posted.

➤ At 9 a.m. on March 18, 2003, the FBI caught a man answering to the name of Ashcroft on the 400 block of Army Street with a Shredmaster 1000 and the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. All the FBI could find intact was the Second Amendment.

—*Officer Karen Suzanne*

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performed by

★ The Singing Missiles ★ The Odai & Qusai Duo ★  
★ The B-52s ★ Donny Rumsfeld's Republican Jug Band ★

## Noe Valley Makes Plans To Bomb Itself Into Extinction

By Niah List

In a startling show of solidarity with the peoples of Iraq, residents of Noe Valley have agreed to drop bombs on themselves at noon on Tuesday, April 1.

This planned annihilation comes as a relief to parents, who have been concerned about the effect the war in Baghdad is having on their dogs.

Our local Neighborhood Emergency Response Force (NERF) group is supporting the plan. "I don't think anybody believes duct tape or plastic sheeting will protect them, once somebody does something like shock and awe to us over here. Who knows what some terrorist will come up with—bombs, or toxins, or annoying radio commercials—we can't fight all that," said NERF's Ball.

In fact, the consensus in Noe Valley is, the sooner the better. "Once we get this stuff over with, we'll be able to rest

CONTINUED AT HEAVEN'S GATE

## Class bin Ads

**Help Wanted.** If you feel like sending your resume, go ahead. Just kidding! We won't read it! Write to Big Biz, 666 Market St.

**Are You Hot?** Hollywood producer seeking women with high FSH levels to compete in new reality show. Finalists will be rated for menopausal zest by judges Gail Sheehy, Gloria Steinem, and Simon Cowell.

**Klutzy?** Dr. Yu Dropsey discusses "The Good, the Bad, and the Clumsy" in a workshop at St. Fluke's Hospital. April 2. Bring your own gauze.

**Weapons of Mess Destruction.** Organizing and cleaning are our mission! We have mops, pails, brooms, swiffers, scrubbies, scouring pads, and rum-soaked babas. 555-1092.

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## WARNING

Although the *Noe Valley Voice* makes every effort to protect your privacy, under the federal U.S. PATRIOT ACT, you just never know. Federal agents may be watching your eyes move as you read this and they may be taking notes. Try to look innocent.

## 'Smoking Gun' Found

By Smithy Sal

The FBI announced today that the infamous smoking gun, which has eluded authorities for the past year and a half, has finally been found, on a back table at The Peaks bar.

Though it was partly submerged in a warm Guinness, the weapon was still smoking (despite posted health warnings). It appeared to be covered in fingerprints, likely those of Saddam Hussein, Robert Blake, or Squeaky Fromm. After dousing the fire, FBI agents confiscated the gun and ordered a pitcher of beer.

## Pre-emptive Parking Meters Deployed

By Sazzan Whosane

Officials from the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic were on hand at a meeting held at the donut shop Tuesday to explain the features of the new high-tech "smart" parking meters on 24th Street.

For those of you who hadn't noticed, the new meters—which take all coins except the old French *ecu*, as well as American Express, Discover, and Diner's Club, and I.O.U. slips for your firstborn son—last month replaced the meters that only took quarters.

"The simple design of the meters belies their monitoring and tracking potential," parking enforcement officer Jorge Howell told the crowd. "The flashing red 'Expired' message uses satellite technology to locate and alert the nearest meter maid—er, officer," he said. Each officer's vehicle is equipped with a computerized map of the area, with blinking dots indicating the expired meters.

The colors of the blinking dots include red, orange, yellow, blue, and green, depending on the immediacy of the call. Howell refused to explain why purple was left out of the scheme, and why blue came before green when the rainbow shows them the other way around. "The bases of the meters are filled with shaving cream," he said, "and are set to explode if the sensors detect a car driving away before a parking officer can reach the spot."

In related advancements, the officers have been given permission by acting Police Chief Fagin to shoot tranquilizer darts at drivers who are trying to flee.

Howell explained that parking had become such a problem on the strip that the department had decided to approach it pre-emptively, a first for the office.

The meters have been programmed to detect whether a driver is even thinking of parking illegally, in which case it is entitled to use force against the suspected malingeringer. A boxing glove has been carefully fitted inside the meter's head and will deploy at appropriate times, Howell said.

Asked whether the lot at the old Dan's Garage—which has been turned into a de facto free parking area—has detracted from people using metered spots, Howell appeared unconcerned.

"You're really not supposed to park there under city resolution 1442. I trust the citizens are heeding that." □

## In International News



**Is It Him or a Double?** The *Voice* is checking the authenticity of this FOX-Jazeera photo, purportedly showing Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein fleeing into the desert following a fierce battle with U.S. troops.

Photo by Checkpoint Charlie Kennard

## We Like France

## Noe Valleons/Frogs Trading Places

By Sal Rushdie

In the 18 months since the Sept. 11 tragedy, more than half of Noe Valley's 25,000 residents have swapped houses with people in France. The obvious reason is that many locals wish to opt out of the war with Iraq and show solidarity with a country that has stood up to President Bush. However, results of a recent survey conducted by the French Tourism Board paint a more complicated picture.

When asked why they wanted to move to France, Noe Valley house-swappers said they were attracted to the French cuisine, art, culture, and appreciation for dogs and black clothes. But a surprising 75 percent also cited the relaxed health and hygiene codes. "You don't have to shave your underarms over there," noted Harry Bodie, who used to live along Comerford Alley. "Besides, you can still smoke."

For their part, French citizens are flocking to California, and to San Francisco in particular, for the Ambiance (located at 3985 24th St.) and direct access to clowns and mimes. They also were drawn to a charming American trait: cheapness. Said recent emigré Jack Shrack, "What we love most are your \$2 wines by this Chuck from Trader Joe's."

## READ 'em and WEEP

Your reading list this month, selected by Noe Valley Bookmobile patrons Sally Grief and Small Karol, features a few books. To find out what's up, call 555-FINE or visit 451 Jersey Street, near Castro Street. Besides books, the branch offers some old copies of the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also has free periodicals in the foyer, such as *Proper Parenting Digest* and the *Psychic Clarion*; a women-only literature section in which no men are allowed; and a whole shelf devoted exclusively to penguins.

## Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *The Colon in the Title: Making the Names of Literary Books on Paper Continue and Go On and On Endlessly Without Stopping*, author Colin O'Scopey examines excessive verbiage, redundancy, the tendency to be prolix, and how we occasionally tend to repeat ourselves.

◆ *Cooking on the Lamb* by Shari Lewis offers sheep and chic recipes from Sarah Jane Olson, Dick Cheney, and Osama bin Hidin'.

## Children's Fiction

◆ J.K. Rowling's latest, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, begins where *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Commerce* left off. Ages 8 to 80.

◆ J.R.R. Tolkien's undiscovered masterpiece *Frodo* tells the story of an artist and Hobbit married to philandering Middle Earth muralist Diego Baggins. Ages 11 to 12.

## Sing-Along Internet

◆ Neighborhood musician *Milton Url* takes ages 6 through 8 on a tuneful trip through all the web sites on the Internet. April 1 through Dec. 4, 2007, 4 a.m. to midnight.

## Preschool TV Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 can watch and learn inappropriate life lessons from *popular talk shows and soap operas* from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1.

## Adult Films

◆ The library invites grownups to watch films including *Birdman of Alcatrazes*, *Escape from Homelessness*, and *Bowling for Concubines*.

## Family Lapsits

◆ Cats are now welcome at the library's family lapsits for infants, toddlers, and their parents, as long as they don't use their claws.

## Lead Stages a Comeback ...Asbestos, Too!

By Victory Fries

Continuing a trend set earlier in the Bushes' administrations, EPA administrator Christine Toad-Whitman announced two new programs that will provide tax incentives for producers of asbestos and lead. The agency also rescinded all prior regulations governing these two popular materials.

"This is a great leap forward," beamed Republican blowhard and legislation sponsor Newt Gingrich. "We've been trying to get the lead in, as best as we can."

As for the thousands of lawsuits pending on asbestos-injury matters, Attorney General John Ashcroak said he looks forward to their instant dismissal. "That will clear the way for the tremendous influx of abortion prosecutions we expect as a result of the recent reversal of *Row vs. Wade*," Ashcroak added. "As you know, we have waived the statute of limitations on crimes, and the Justice Department expects approximately 4,563,771 cases to be brought against doctors who performed abortions, women who had abortions, and individuals who ever thought about maybe having an abortion."

Experts agreed the courts could become swamped, and suggested perhaps religious tribunals could be used to expedite the process. "We're going to need to do something about the backlog," said Ashcroak's assistant, Bishop Polly Wog of Calaveras County. "We also have to accommodate all the cases triggered by the repeal of the physician-assisted suicide law in Oregon last month. We've already begun the exhumations of some of the defendants and when you add in the doctors and families, that comes to quite a few religious combatants from that source. Forgetting about the burden on the courts, we need to find a place to put these defendants first! Guantanamo Bay, warts and all,

BOGGED DOWN ON THE NEXT PAGE

## Cardboard Man Accepts Notions

By Rhea Cycling

Merchants and residents alike are shouting "Hallelujah!" now that 24th Street's cardboard collection man has begun picking up unwanted buttons.

There is no limitation on the size or shape of buttons, and two-eyed, four-eyed, and loop-back buttons are all acceptable. Conveniently, the various configurations of buttons need not be separated from each other. A special round red bin will be assigned to each household or business for the express purpose of used button collection. On the designated day of the week, the buttons bin must be placed near the curb, but only after 6 p.m. to avoid incurring a steep fine.

In the San Francisco of the future, it is planned that other notions will be deemed acceptable for recycling, including empty thread spools, shoe polishing cloths, and nylon hairnets. □

## Aw, shocks...

This is where something goes that somehow proves we're not bigots or idiots, although it may be a day late and a dollar short, so to speak, if you're reading this now.

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Noe Valley librarians had absolutely nothing to do with this nonsense. —Editor